

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
AND  
PRIVACY ACTS**

**SUBJECT: BARKER/KARPIS GANG  
BREMER KIDNAPPING**

**FILE NUMBER: 7-576**

**SECTION : 273**



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

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SUBJECT Barker/Karpis Gang (Bremer Kidnapping)

FILE NUMBER 7-576

SECTION NUMBER 273

SERIALS 15262 - 15323

TOTAL PAGES 203

PAGES RELEASED 203

PAGES WITHHELD 0

EXEMPTION(S) USED (b)(3); (b)(7)C

ROK:mmh  
7-576

SAC, St. Louis

November 8, 1944

John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

BREKID

Reference is made to your memorandum of September 12, 1944, in the captioned matter wherein you furnished information made available by Mrs. Della Lowery and Leonard Hankins who alleged that Hankins' civil rights had been violated.

The information forwarded by you indicating that Leonard Hankins may have suffered a violation of his civil rights was made available to the Criminal Division of the Department, which has now advised that the institution of criminal proceedings is not warranted in this case and that further investigation was not desired.

In view of this opinion expressed by the Department, no further action need be taken by your office in the matter.

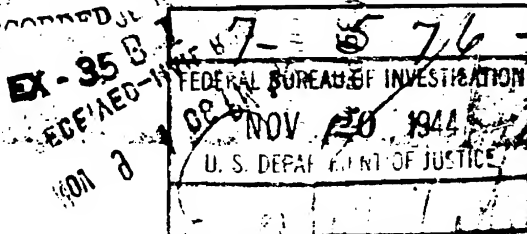
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Mumford  
Mr. Jones  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

RECORDS SECTION  
MAILED 8  
NOV 9 1944 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

51 NOV 22 1944

360



ROK:pmw  
7-576

SAC, St. Paul

December 16, 1944

John Edgar Hoover, Director - Federal Bureau of Investigation

0  
BREKID

Reference is made to your memorandum of September 12, 1944, in the captioned matter wherein you furnished information made available by Mrs. Della Lowery and Leonard Hankins who alleged that Hankins' civil rights had been violated.

The information forwarded by you indicating that Leonard Hankins may have suffered a violation of his civil rights was made available to the Criminal Division of the Department, which has now advised that the institution of criminal proceedings is not warranted in this case and that further investigation was not desired.

In view of this opinion expressed by the Department, no further action need be taken by your office in the matter.

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. L. A. Clegg  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Mumford  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED 11  
★ DEC 18 1944 P.M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

17-57-5263  
RECORDED & INDEXED  
DEC 19 1944  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DEC 26 1944

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: December 12, 1944

FROM *hm* SAC, St. Louis

SUBJECT: *P* BREKID

*gm*  
*9/23*  
Reference is made to Bureau memorandum dated November 8, 1944, which makes reference to a memorandum from the St. Louis Office dated September 12, 1944, wherein the St. Louis Office furnished information regarding Mrs. DELLA LOWERY and LEONARD HANKINS, alleging that HANKINS' civil rights have been violated.

Please be advised the St. Louis Office is unable to identify the memorandum of September 12, 1944, and is unable to locate a record of Mrs. DELLA LOWERY or LEONARD HANKINS.

RECORDED

INDEXED

31 DEC 27 1944

GEN:hml

*Letter to St. Paul*  
*R-ck 50/JAN 1 1945*

EX-16

*6-100*

JFC:DMG

RECORDED

7-576-15265

SAC, Washington Field

March 3, 1945

68-121

J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

BREKID

There are transmitted herewith for your information two copies of a letter received at the Bureau from Augustus F. Penamon, 313 Sixth Street, Northeast, Washington 2, D. C. This letter is dated merely February, 1945. It will be observed that the correspondent requests information pertaining to Alvin Karpis and in this connection has submitted a copy of a fingerprint card bearing Karpis' fingerprints. This fingerprint card is likewise enclosed.

The Bureau's files reflect that instant correspondent is probably identical with the subject of the case entitled "Augustus Harris Penamon, with aliases, Selective Service," your file #25-11814. In view of the information concerning Penamon set forth in the report of Special Agent John T. Reynolds dated at Washington, D. C., on June 7, 1944, the Bureau does not desire to acknowledge the enclosed letter in writing. However, since he has requested the return of the fingerprint card submitted by him, it is desired that an Agent of your office contact Penamon in the near future returning to him this fingerprint card. Penamon should also be advised that Karpis is no longer being sought by this Bureau. In this connection you will recall that Karpis was apprehended on the evening of May 1, 1936, at New Orleans, Louisiana, and that on July 27, 1936, on a plea of guilty to an indictment charging him with a violation of the Federal Kidnaping Statute, Karpis was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Enclosures

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED 9  
★ MAR - 3 1945 P.M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

MAR 10 1945

313 Fifth St. N. W.  
Washington, D. C.  
Feb. 19, 1945

13  
14 B. B.  
Justice Department  
Washington, D. C.  
Alvin Karpis

My Dear Sir;  
I'm studying Crime  
Detection under the di-  
rection of Mr. T. L. Cooke.  
A few days ago Mr.  
Cooke forwarded to me a

173  
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200

RECORDED  
INDEXED 7-576-15;  
EX-50 121  
25 FEB 20 1945

murder and other crimes.

While examining the picture of the men listed, I notice Alvin Karpis picture particular because a picture appeared in <sup>Washington</sup> The Washington Times Herald, <sup>Washington, D.C.</sup> Sunday, of Mr. Oscar Levant, soloist and pianist with the Symphon Orchestra in a performance at the Constitution Hall 15/3.

The side description of Oscar Levant while seated at the piano look similar

the F. B. I.

I would like to obtain  
this information.

Have any apprehension  
been made of Alvin Karpis  
since April 22, 1936 within the  
eight years.

In your Bureau of Ident-  
tification, I'm sure you still  
have on file finger prints and  
picture of Alvin Karpis. pl.  
check your files on finger prin-  
of Mr. Oscar Levant and  
Alvin Karpis, because I can-  
be positive of pictures, but

be sure of the finger prints  
because no one have have the  
same finger prints as Mr.  
Crook's reports; if these two  
men's finger prints are the  
same, this is your man, you  
have positive proof.

I'm looking forward to your  
respondance and the information  
that I wish to obtain at  
your every latest, I am  
and thanks a lot for  
Your Aid.

I'm Sincerely  
Mr. Augustus F. Penman

Oscar Levant

AUGUSTUS F. PENMAN

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI  
FROM : GUY HOTTEL, SAC, Washington Field  
SUBJECT: BREKID

DATE: March 20, 1945

Reference is made to your letter of March 3, 1945 captioned as above.

The fingerprint card enclosed with reference letter has been returned to Mr. AUGUSTUS F. PENAMON, 313 Sixth Street, N. E. in accordance with your instructions.

Mr. PENAMON was advised of the apprehension of KARPIS and the fact that he is no longer being sought by the Bureau.

No further action will be taken in this matter by this office.

25-11814  
HGB:mcr

RECORDED & INDEXED

79-171

17-576-15266  
F B I

41 MAR 21 1945

57 MAR 28 1945

HBL:FMJ

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : E. P. COFFEY *EP*  
FROM : H. B. LONG  
SUBJECT: ALVIN KARPIS, with aliases;  
EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM  
KIDNAPING  
BUREAU FILE #7-576

DATE: 5-11-45

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Jones \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

The file maintained in the Laboratory in this case has been disposed of and there is attached an envelope containing the material which was in the Laboratory File and which is not duplicated in the Investigative File. It is desired that the Records Section file this as an enclosure behind the file.

*XL* RETAIN PER FORM 4-34 DATED 7/10/67  
*encl. filed on Bulky Rem.*  
*Retained per memo*  
*Ex. 100 to McGuire*  
*130 5-27-59 pwa*  
53 MAY 1945

7-576-152  
ST. H. 100  
MAY 1945

7-576-15267

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☐ Deleted under exemption(s) \_\_\_\_\_ with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) \_\_\_\_\_, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); \_\_\_\_\_ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- ☒ For your information: Documents found in accompanying  
Bulky 15267 Box 1, Parts 1-7 and Box 2, Parts 1-4
- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  
7-576-15267 Bulky, Box#, Part#

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
X DELETED PAGE(S) X  
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X  
X FOR THIS PAGE X  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

ex  
146

7-574-15268

NOT USED

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: February 13, 1946

FROM : SAC, Houston

SUBJECT: BREMER KIDNAPING CASE

*Edward G. Bremer*

*11-4 BERG  
not typing  
Vada Nyberg  
is a nut.  
She worries the  
Agents constantly  
at Little Rock  
at Little Rock  
the harboring  
trials of Alvin  
Karpis & others  
et al.  
3/21/46  
B.M. Sullivan  
has a witness  
and detective complex  
Hawley  
J.L.  
3-5-46*

Mrs. WARREN W. HOWARD appeared at this office on February 6, 1946, to advise that she was one of the individuals at New Orleans, Louisiana, who pointed out ALVIN KARPAS to Bureau Agents which led to his apprehension. She stated she was then known as VADA NYBERG, but that she has since married WARREN W. HOWARD and now lives at 103½ Statford Street, Houston, Texas with a private telephone listing of Keystone 3-2448.

Mrs. HOWARD stated that she had been under instructions to always make her whereabouts known to the Bureau's offices since she might be needed as a witness for the harboring trial of the Mayor at Hot Springs, Arkansas.

I assured Mrs. HOWARD that her name and present address would be made a matter of record.

Special Agent JOHN V. MURPHY, of this office, who is conversant with the Hot Springs phase of the BREMER CASE and also VEDA NYBERG, informs me that this woman is possibly a mental case or at least a person attaching undue significance to her earlier activity in the BREMER CASE, especially considering its present status.

Since I am not aware of the background of Mrs. HOWARD, this information is being supplied the Bureau.

GNW:NK

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

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EX-71

FEB 18 1946

7-576-1546  
FBI  
FEB 18 1946

RECORDED 7-576-15269  
SAC, Houston

March 5, 1946

EX-40

John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

BREKID

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter dated February 13, 1946, wherein you report that a Mrs. Warren W. Howard appeared at your office and advised she had been instructed to report her whereabouts to the FBI inasmuch as she might possibly be a witness in this case.

You are advised that the files of the Bureau reflect that this woman has not been so instructed and also reflect she is not a necessary witness in any type of proceeding in connection with this matter.

JTL:cg

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

MAR 11 1946

MAR 5 4 18 PM '46

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Nichols

FROM : E. M. Suttler

SUBJECT: SUGGESTION - Re: Joseph P. "Doc" Moran  
FUGITIVE - BREKID

DATE: April 5, 1946

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

As Dr. Joseph P. "Doc" Moran is still carried as a fugitive in the files of the FBI it is suggested that efforts be made in the near future to clarify once and for all whether or not "Doc" Moran is dead. There is every reason to believe that he is dead as he was last seen in the company of "Doc" Barker and Russell Gibson at the Casino Club in Toledo, Ohio, in July, 1934. The allegation is made in the file that "Doc" Moran on that night while at the club with Barker and Gibson made the statement, "I have you guys in the palms of my hands." This statement was apparently the signing of his death warrant. He was seen leaving the Casino Club very drunk in the company of "Doc" Barker and Russell Gibson and has never been seen since that night. Besides this, the writer mentioned this matter to Mr. E. J. Connelley the other day when he was in town and Mr. Connelley distinctly remembers that Edna Murray, one of the molls in the Karpis-Barker mob, stated that "Doc" Moran was dead; that on the night he was killed "Doc" Barker and Russell Gibson took him out on a lake and threw him overboard. In so doing they splashed up their clothes very badly. When they returned to the hideout both of them were quite wet and stated that they had gotten wet when they threw "Doc" Moran overboard. They apparently shot him prior to throwing him in the lake.

Mr. Connelley also recalled that in the apartment in Chicago where "Doc" Barker was living at the time of his arrest about January 8, 1935, they found a letter written to him by Fred Barker which mentioned that "Doc" Moran had probably been eaten up by the fish by that time or words to that effect.

Russell Gibson, "Doc" Barker and Fred Barker are now dead. The only one who could clear up this long-hidden mystery is Alvin Karpis who is still incarcerated in Alcatraz. It is therefore respectfully suggested that the Bureau give consideration to sending an old-time Agent to Alcatraz to obtain a statement from Alvin Karpis on whether or not "Doc" Moran is dead. If the Agent could obtain a detailed statement from Karpis reflecting the approximate time that Moran was killed and other circumstances surrounding his death which could be tied in with what we already know, this would be enough to close out the case now pending against him as a fugitive in the Bremer kidnaping case. The writer will be glad to prepare the necessary letter to San Francisco and check all of the material in the Bremer case in order to furnish the Agent handling this assignment with as much background data as is necessary if the suggestion is approved.

EES:MP

52 JUL 26 1946

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED  
EX-40 342

7-576-15  
1946  
JUL 26 1946

cc - Mr. Rosen  
Mr. C. W. E.

SAC, San Francisco

June 21, 1946

Director, FBI

GEORGE TIMINEX, with aliases;  
DR. JOSEPH P. MORAN, with aliases - FUGITIVE  
I. O. #1232, etal  
EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - Victim  
KIDNAPING  
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE  
HARBORING OF FUGITIVES  
NATIONAL FIREARMS ACT

At the present time the Bureau has an active card in the fugitive index on Dr. Joseph P. Moran, who was associated with Alvin Karpis and members of the Barker-Karpis gang and who is wanted for questioning in connection with the kidnaping of Edward George Bremer at St. Paul, Minnesota, on January 17, 1934. Moran is the subject of Identification Order #1232.

Various members of the Barker-Karpis gang have indicated that Dr. Moran was taken out one night during the summer of 1934 from the Casino Club at Toledo, Ohio by members of the gang under circumstances which indicated that he may have been "taken for a ride". Information further indicated at that time that possibly Moran's body was thrown into Lake Erie. No definite information, however, has been developed to date substantiating the fact that Moran is dead. His body has never been located.

There is transmitted herewith a copy of the report of Special Agent V. E. Criss dated January 19, 1937 at Chicago, Illinois, in the above captioned matter, which contains a review of the file regarding the statements made by various individuals concerning the death of Dr. Joseph P. Moran. It is noted that "Doc" Barker and Russell "Slim" Gibson, who were alleged to have been the two individuals who disposed of Moran, are now dead. Fred Barker, who wrote a letter during 1934 or 1935 to "Doc" Barker mentioning that Moran had probably been eaten up by the fishes, is also dead. It is believed that Alvin Karpis, who is now incarcerated in Alcatraz, is the only one who can clear up the mystery concerning the disappearance of Dr. Moran. Following his apprehension on May 1, 1936 Karpis claimed that he did not know what had become of Moran. Karpis has not been questioned concerning the disappearance of Moran since that time although he was questioned on April 23, 1937 at Alcatraz by Special Agents K. E. McIntire and C. W. Stein regarding Dolores Delaney.

It is believed that Karpis may have information which would clear up the mystery surrounding the disappearance of Dr. Moran. You are therefore requested to have an experienced Special Agent question Karpis at Alcatraz in an effort to obtain a statement from him on whether or not Dr. Moran is dead.

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

cc - St. Paul

Attachment

RECORDED

&

INDEXED

EX-33

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JUN 27 1946

52 JUL 15 1946

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

April 10, 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HARBO *RB*Re: *Disposition of Guns**O BREKID*

There follows a list of 14 guns which were confiscated from members of the Barker-Karpis gang and thereafter submitted to the Laboratory for examination. Upon the request of the interested field offices these weapons have been retained in the Laboratory since they were examined. These weapons have no value in so far as the Reference Collection of Firearms is concerned and authority is requested for their permanent disposition in accordance with existing regulations.

GUN	GUN NUMBER	FILE SERIAL COVERING GUNS SUBMISSION
.32 Colt Auto.	459861	7-576-5895-5260 <i>Canfield N</i>
.32 Colt Auto.	433263	4680 <i>no name in</i>
.32 Colt Auto.	404724	4680 <i>no name in</i>
.32 Colt Auto.	304899	7221, 3729, 3852, 7195, 4612, 5225, 7376 <i>Gibson OK.</i>
.380 Colt Auto.	115483	5316, 7142, 4709, 9221, 7231, 7376 <i>OK.</i>
.380 Colt Auto.	113038	4709 <i>no name in</i>
.380 Colt Auto.	FBI #7	7234 <i>Weaver rec.</i>
.38 S & W Rev.	131910	3921 <i>no name in</i>
.45 Colt Auto.	345132	3194 <i>Kate B OK</i>
.45 Colt Auto.	C177278	7234 <i>Weaver rec.</i>
.45 Colt Auto.	C175221	11098 <i>Karpis</i>
.45 Colt Auto.	C162893	11098 <i>Karpis</i>
.45 Colt Auto.	C161847	11459 <i>no name in</i>
.45 Colt Auto.	C161841	11098 <i>Karpis no</i>
		3921 <i>7 sub. Kate B OK</i>

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Piper \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Beahm \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*No inventory change*

TFB:AL



7-576

6/7/46

9th

Guns placed with weapon receiving division  
6-29-46*T. F. Baughman*

T. F. Baughman

RECORDED  
INDEXED

7-576-15272

F B I

EX-60 32 JUL 15 1946

52 JUL 24 1946

80-14-1

April 10, 1946

MR. FARBO

Re: Disposition of Guns

There follows a list of 14 guns which were confiscated from members of the Barker-Karpis gang and thereafter submitted to the Laboratory for examination. Upon the request of the interested field offices these weapons have been retained in the Laboratory since they were examined. These weapons have no value in so far as the Reference Collection of Firearms is concerned and authority is requested for their permanent disposition in accordance with existing regulations.

GUN	GUN NUMBER	FILE SERIAL COVERING GUN SUBMISSION
.32 Colt Auto.	45936	7-276-5395
.32 Colt Auto.	431253	4681
.32 Colt Auto.	404724	4680
.32 Colt Auto.	304399	—
.380 Colt Auto.	115483	4709
.380 Colt Auto.	113038	7234
.380 Colt Auto.	FBI #7	3921
.38 S & W Rev.	111910	3194
.45 Colt Auto.	345232	7234
.45 Colt Auto.	C177218	11098
.45 Colt Auto.	C175221	11098
.45 Colt Auto.	C162373	11459
.45 Colt Auto.	C161847	11098
.45 Colt Auto. to Quinlan	C161941	3921

6-14-46-

E. F. Baughman

Guns checked - For permanent disposition per  
Munro, Hayes & Pennington 6-7-46.  
All other weapons placed in Bulky  
Evidence file - 6-28-46 -

Cal

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gurnea \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Pennington \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL

7-576

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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Pennington

DATE: June 7, 1946

FROM : J. T. Logue

SUBJECT: Brekid

With reference to the attached memorandum from Mr. Baughman to Mr. Harbo, dated April 10, 1946, listing fourteen guns confiscated from members of the Barker-Karpis gang, the following observations are made with regard to the disposal of these firearms.

The following firearms were taken from the possession of or the residences of subjects in this case who are now deceased, and it appears that the permanent disposition of these guns in accordance with existing regulations would be entirely satisfactory:

- ✓.32 Colt Automatic, Serial No. 304899, property of Russell Gibson, deceased
- ✓.380 Colt Automatic, Serial No. 115483, property of Russell Gibson
- ✓.380 Colt Automatic, FBI No. 7, property of Fred and Kate Barker
- ✓.38 S & W Revolver, Serial No. 131910, property of Kate Barker
- ✓.45 Colt Automatic, Serial No. C161841, property of Fred and Kate Barker.

The remaining guns listed in Mr. Baughman's memorandum were the property of or taken from the subjects Harry Campbell, William Weaver, Volney Davis, and Alvin Carpio, all of whom are serving life or long-term sentences in Federal penitentiaries. The probability exists that anyone or more of the living subjects may file legal proceedings of one type or another in connection with this case, and I believe we should have available all the evidence pertaining to those subjects, especially due to the fact that this was one of the most important cases the Bureau has investigated.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the firearms listed above, the property of the deceased subjects, be disposed of in accordance with regulations and that the remaining firearms listed in Mr. Baughman's memorandum be retained at the Seat of Government.

JTL:ers

Attachment

Cal 45 Colt Auto # C161841

This weapon included among  
five weapons permanently disposed of  
in laboratory by transferring them for  
use at frontiers 6-14-46

Guns placed with other weapons  
awaiting permanent disposition in lab  
6-28-46

no inventory  
changed  
6-28-46

RECORDED  
EX-66

17-576-15275  
F B I  
32 JUL 15 1946

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 80-14-1-36

588  
S-12

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Beahm  
Miss Gandy

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI  
 FROM : SAC, San Francisco

DATE: July 13, 1946

SUBJECT: GEORGE TIMINEY, was;  
 Dr. JOSEPH P. MORAN, was, FUGITIVE,  
 I. O. #1232; et al  
 EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - Victim  
 KIDNAPING  
 OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE  
 HARBORING OF FUGITIVES  
 NATIONAL FIREARMS ACT

In accordance with Bureau memorandum dated June 21, 1946, Special Agents ROBERT E. LANCTOT and LEONARD R. WEBER made arrangements to interview ALVIN KARPIS, known as ALVIN KARPAVICZ, #325, Alcatraz Prison, on July 11, 1946. KARPIS, however, refused to talk to these agents or any other member of the Bureau when he learned representatives of the FBI had arranged to have him interviewed.

It was determined that just a few days prior to this period KARPIS had received a severe burn on his right hand as the result of a blow-back from an oven while he was working in the prison's bakery. He was visibly disturbed and nervous during the brief contact with him and also appeared upset because of the condition of his hand. KARPIS frankly stated he knew the agents "had to do their jobs" but he was not going to talk to them about anything as he knew the FBI could do nothing for him, and in fact, had done everything it could against him. He refused to comment any further and walked away from the agents, requesting that he be returned to his cell.

Since he displayed a very uncooperative attitude and was extremely disinterested in anything the agents might want to talk to him about no further efforts will be made to interview him. RUC.

LRW:jks  
 7-33

cc - St. Paul

RECORDED & INDEXED  
 72  
 17-576-15274  
 FBI

37 JUL 17 1946

EX-68

62  
 88 AUG 1 1946

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, San Francisco

SUBJECT: ALVIN KARPIS, was., et al  
EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM  
KIDNAPING  
(Bureau File 7-576)

DATE: August 30, 1946

Described below are two bulky exhibits presently maintained in this office in connection with the above-captioned case. As it appears that these exhibits have no further value, permission is requested to destroy them.

Serial 15

Two mimeographed copies of the list of bank notes paid as ransom in kidnaping case, received from Bureau dated February 28, 1934.

Serial 605

Extra copies of circular letters sent to all banks in the territory covered by the San Francisco Field Division, dated July 10, 1935, requesting that this office be notified in the event the banks received any thousand-dollar bills issued by the Atlanta Federal Reserve bank.

GAH:ER  
7-33

ack  
9-18-46  
JLL

RECORDED

7-576-15275

81-XXI

37 SEP 4 1946

66-3286-47-7

7-576

SAC, San Francisco

September 18, 1946

Director, FBI

ALVIN KARPIS, with aliases; et al  
EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - Victim.  
KIDNAPING.

Reference is made to your letter of August 30, 1946, describing two exhibits maintained in your field office files in connection with instant case.

Inasmuch as these exhibits are of no evidentiary value you are authorized to destroy them.

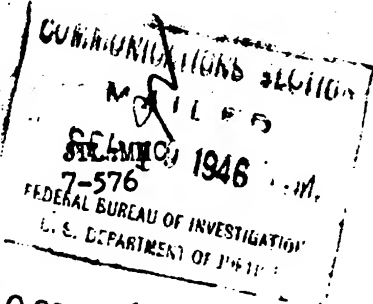
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 9-2-92 BY SP4 E14 gHK

RECORDED  
EX-182

7-576-15275

mme

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy



OCT 16 1946

U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

SEP 18 4 48 PM '46

JH

Earc

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 7-576-15275

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, SAN FRANCISCO

DATE: October 11, 1946

SUBJECT: ALVIN KARPIS, with aliases, ET AL.;  
EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - Victim  
KIDNAPING  
(Bureau File 7-576)

Reference is made to my letter of August 30, 1946, in which permission was requested of the Bureau to destroy certain bulky exhibits at present being maintained in the San Francisco Field Division in connection with the above captioned case. In addition to the exhibits described in my letter of August 30, permission is also requested to destroy the following additional bulky exhibits which are believed to be of no further evidentiary value:

Vol. 1 - Serial 4

Newspaper clipping from SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER dated 1/31/34 re "Bremer Kidnapper Hunted at San Francisco".

Serial 15

Photograph (two views) of FRED BARKER.

Photograph (two views) of ALVIN KARPIS.

Photograph (two views) of ARTHUR R. BARKER.

Photograph (two views) of HARRY CAMPBELL.

Photograph (two views) of VOLNEY DAVIS.

Investigative notes of Special Agent E. B. MONTGOMERY.

Three photographs of Mrs. GEORGE ANDERSON.

One group photograph of BARKER-KARPIS Gang.

Photostatic copy of fingerprints and photographs of PAULA HARMON, Houston, Texas, PD #4038.

Vol. 2 - Serial 95

One 8 x 10 photograph of VOLNEY DAVIS.

One 8 x 10 photograph of ARTHUR BARKER.

RECORDED

12-576-15

15

(continued next page)

COPIES DESTROYED

166 MAR 26 1965

59 NOV 12 1946

SF #7-33  
Director, FBI  
10/11/46

One 8 x 10 photograph of FRED BARKER.  
One 8 x 10 photograph of HARRY CAMPBELL.  
One 8 x 10 photograph of ALVIN KARPIS.  
One small photograph of Mrs. KATE BARKER.  
One photograph (3 views) of Mrs. C. P. HARMON.

Vol.2- Serial 103

One photograph (two views) of HOMER VIRGIL WILSON, Denver PD #8291.  
One photographic copy of signature of HOMER VIRGIL WILSON.  
Two copies of typewritten list of individuals who were thought to be subjects in this case.  
One photograph (two views) of THOMAS SPENCER FLANDERS, Seattle PD #17111.  
One photograph (two views) of THEODORE BENTZ, Tacoma PD #6605.  
Ten photostatic copies of signatures of HOMER VIRGIL WILSON.  
List of automobiles entering California with out-of-state licenses from 2/11/34 to 2/19/34.  
Copy of telegram to Chief of Police, San Francisco, from JOHN P. WALL, Sheriff, Minneapolis, Minnesota, dated 3/20/34 concerning auto registrations.  
One photograph of G. H. SCOTT, suspect.  
Photograph of ROBERT EDWARD DUNN, Seattle PD #17108.  
Photograph of CHARLES LEROY KELSO, Dallas PD #10564, dated 11/16/32.  
List of telephone listings in San Francisco.  
15 photostatic copies of the signature of E. L. BURNES, a suspect.

(continued next page)

SF #7-33  
Director, FBI  
10/11/46

Vol. 2 - Serial 152

Six large photographs (2 views each) of ALVIN KARPIS.

Six large photographs of HARRY CAMPBELL.

Six large photographs (2 views each) of FRED BARKER.

Six large photographs (2 views each) of ARTHUR R. BARKER.

Six large photographs (2 views each) of VOLNEY DAVIS.

Four photostatic copies of composite arrangement of photographs of PAULA HARMON.

Vol. 2 - Serial 161

Sixteen photographs (two views each) of EDWARD BENTZ.

Sixteen photographs of Mrs. EDWARD BENTZ.

Fifteen photographs (two views each) of THEODORE BENTZ.

Fifteen photographs (two views each) of TOMMY CARROLL.

Fifteen photographs (two views each) of CURLEY CLAUSE.

Fifteen photographs (three views each) of PAULA HARMON.

Fifteen photographs of KATE BARKER.

Fifteen photographs (group) of the KARPIS-BARKER gang.

List of laundries located in the Northern District of California.

List of laundries located in San Francisco.

Form letter distributed to laundries listing known laundry marks of suspects.

(continued next page)

SF #7-33  
Director, FBI  
10/11/46

Vol. 2 - Serial 189

One 8 x 10 photograph of FRED BARKER.  
One 8 x 10 photograph of ARTHUR BARKER.  
One photograph of Mrs. ED BENTZ.  
One photograph (two views) of ED BENTZ.  
One photograph of PAULA HARMON (3 views).  
One photograph of KATE BARKER.  
One photograph of TED BENTZ (2 views).  
One photograph (two views) of TOMMY CARROLL.  
One photograph (two views) of CURLEY CLAUSE.  
One large photograph of ARTHUR BARKER.  
One large photograph of FRED BARKER.  
One large photograph of HARRY CAMPBELL.  
One large photograph of ALVIN KARPIS.  
One large photograph of VOLNEY DAVIS.  
One large photostat sheet containing six photographs of PAULA HARMON, together with fingerprints and description.  
List of long-distance telephone calls made from the homes of suspects at Reno, Nevada.

Vol. 3 - Serial 216

One large photograph of ALVIN KARPIS and LAWRENCE DE VALT.  
Photostatic copy of chart showing the signatures of VOLNEY DAVIS, FRED BARKER, ARTHUR BARKER, ALVIN KARPIS, AND HARRY CAMPBELL.  
Four half-length photographs of ALVIN KARPIS.

(continued next page)

SF-7-33  
Director, FBI  
10/11/46

Replies to circular letter sent to all laundries in San Francisco.

List of long-distance telephone calls from the home and office of F. S. PARICE, suspect.

Copy of a Western Union telegram to Mrs. P. G. HORN from IDA EARLINGBUSH dated 2/23/34.

Copy of telegram to CLARENCE O. 'BRIEN from S. W. GREEN dated 4/16/34.

Copy of telegram to CLARENCE O 'BRIEN from S. W. GREEN dated 4/16/34.

Copy of telegram to PHILIP DELANEY from Mrs. DELANEY dated 4/23/34.

Copy of a telegram to PHIL DELANEY from "MAURICE" dated 4/24/34.

Vol. 3 - Serial 222

Photostatic copy of a chart listing descriptive data of automobiles which were or had been in the possession of members of the Barker-Karpis gang.

Seven photographs (two views each) of MADELYN SNYDER.

Four copies of a letter from GEORGE WATSON dated 5/29/34 to the San Francisco PD concerning the whereabouts of THEODORE BENTZ.

One photograph of ERNEST ROBERT JOHNSTONE.

- Serial 255

Numerous personal letters and copies of letters from EDWARD DAVIS to LOMA DAVIS during July of 1934.

Two photographs (two views) of JOSEPH B. MORAN.

- Serial 269

Two photographs of a party who closely resembles HOMER WILSON, suspect.

- Serial 281

Copies of numerous personal letters between EDWARD DAVIS, LOMA and MARY E. DAVIS during August 1934.

(continued next page)

SF #7-33  
Director, FBI  
10/11/46

Numerous copies of letters between EDWARD DAVIS and LOMA DAVIS during September of 1934.

Two photographs (two views each) of EDNA MURRAY.

Two photographs of an unidentified person sitting in an Auburn automobile.

Upon receipt of information from the Bureau granting permission to destroy the above described bulky exhibits, there will be retained in the San Francisco file two photographs each of the members of the Barker-Karpis gang. It is believed advisable that these photographs should be retained for the use of the San Francisco office in the event of some unforeseen development.

CAM:afh  
7-33

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. R. T. HARPO *HR*

FROM : T. F. PAUGHIAN *TFA*

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORITY TO DISPOSE OF GUNS  
RECOVERED IN BREMER KIDNAP CASE  
Bureau File 7-576

DATE: June 16, 1947

OBREKID

Attached hereto is a listing of 34 guns recovered during investigation of the Bremer Kidnap Case, Bureau File 7-576.

It is requested that authority be granted for the permanent disposition of these weapons. Where available, the serial number in the file concerning the submission of the firearm in the laboratory has been set forth.

As a matter of long standing policy, no weapon is added to the Reference Collection of Firearms until authority for its permanent disposition has been granted. Several of the weapons listed on the attachment would make desirable additions to this collection. On the other hand, several of the weapons have no value insofar as the collection is concerned, and these weapons should be destroyed. Those weapons for which permanent disposition cannot be authorized at this time will be appropriately wrapped and placed in the Bulky Evidence File of the Laboratory Files Section.

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gurnea \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Pennington \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

EX-34

Attachment

MEW:KAG

RECORDED  
EX-34

36 AUG 28 1947

7-576-15277

*Letter to Sec. of Paul  
8-20-47 JTL*

CH

GUNS RECOVERED IN BREMER KIDNAP CASE

FILE	SERIAL	DESCRIPTION OF WEAPON	SERIAL # OF WEAPON
7-576	- -	.38 Special S & W revolver	334010
- - 714	- -	.38 Special Colt Police Positive revolver	327183
3424	- -	.25 Colt automatic <i>Russell Gibson</i>	327502
- -	- -	.45 Thompson Sub-Machine gun <i>Fred + Kate Barker</i>	9176
3921	- -	16 gauge Browning Auto shotgun <i>Latic weir</i>	92870
3921	- -	12 gauge Remington Pump shotgun <i>Fred + Kate Barker</i>	272970
3921	- -	.33 W.C.F. Winchester Rifle, Model 1886	(No #; FBI-26)
4156	- -	.30 Browning Automatic rifle?	211349
4345	- -	.22 Winchester self-loading rifle <i>Harry + Campbell</i>	124138
4345	- -	.22 Colt Woodsman	" " 93719
4345	- -	.33 W.C.F. Winchester rifle	" " 154112 A
4680	- -	.401 Winchester self-loading rifle <i>Joe Doyle</i>	12304
4680	- -	12 gauge Remington Auto shotgun	" " 367197
4680	- -	12 gauge Winchester pump shotgun	" " 799863
5895	- -	.30 Browning Automatic rifle ?	211774
5895	- -	.30 Browning Automatic rifle ?	(No #; FBI 23)
5895	- -	20 gauge Ithaca "Auto-Burglar" shotgun?	361601
5895	- -	.351 Winchester self-loading rifle ?	No #
5895	- -	.45 Colt auto pistol ?	3-151733
5895	- -	.38 Special Colt Police Positive revolver ?	273652
6020	- -	.25 Ortgies automatic pistol <i>Harry Sawyer</i>	140007
6193	- -	.380 Colt automatic pistol <i>Volney Davis</i>	119702

*21. 12/5/48  
8 20 17L*

Page 1  
7-576-15277  
ENCLOSURE

<u>FILE</u>	<u>SERIAL</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION OF WEAPON</u>	<u>SERIAL # OF WEAPON</u>
	7234	.22 Colt Woodsman <i>Wm Weaver</i>	85506
	7234	410 gauge Winchester Pump shotgun, Model 42	3489
	7234	12 gauge Remington Automatic shotgun " "	261109
	7234	.45 Colt Revolver, Model 1917 " "	104773
- -		.32 Colt Automatic pistol <i>Doe Barker</i>	431720
	11098	.22 Colt "Ace" Automatic pistol <i>Karpis</i>	480
	11098	.380 Colt Automatic pistol "	106616
	11098	.22 Remington self-loading rifle "	112132
	11098	.250-3000 Savage lever action rifle "	304431
	11924	.45 Thompson Sub-Machine gun ?	950
	14996	.32 Spanish revolver ?	E 11
	15027	.30 Browning Automatic rifle ?	(No #; FBI 27)

246

MR. R. T. HARBO

June 16, 1947

T. F. FAUGHMAN

REQUEST FOR AUTHORITY TO DISPOSE OF GUNS  
RECOVERED IN BREMER KIDNAP CASE  
Bureau File 7-576

*Put this  
in file  
80514 pms*

Attached hereto is a listing of 34 guns recovered during investigation of the Bremer Kidnap Case, Bureau File 7-576.

It is requested that authority be granted for the permanent disposition of these weapons. Where available, the serial number in the file concerning the submission of the firearm in the laboratory has been set forth.

As a matter of long standing policy, no weapon is added to the Reference Collection of Firearms until authority for its permanent disposition has been granted. Several of the weapons listed on the attachment would make desirable additions to this collection. On the other hand, several of the weapons have no value insofar as the collection is concerned, and these weapons should be destroyed. Those weapons for which permanent disposition cannot be authorized at this time will be appropriately wrapped and placed in the Bulky Evidence File of the Laboratory Files Section.

*To exhibit with  
to number for these  
Don  
Gentle*

*Total 43 guns  
3 Guns Marked (\*) could be used  
in collection - others of no value*

Attachment

MPW:KAG

6 MAR 10 1948

RECEIVED  
JUN 17 1948  
SEVEN  
KT

7-576-15277

Mr. A. T. HARRIS

3/19/47

T. F. BAPTIST

Cause for Disposition

o Brekid

The guns listed below are being forwarded to the Chief Clerk's Office for delivery to the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department in accordance with the established policy. These guns have no further value as evidence and are of no value to the Reference Collection of Firearms. Authorization for their disposition has been granted by the interested Field Divisions.

90201

Caliber	Type	Serial #	File #
	Musser wooden stock	—	80-21-490
32	Savage Automatic	226374	7-382-32
22	Harrington & Richardson Rev.	7634	7-384-676
32	Colt Automatic	310777	15-5540-264
38	Smith & Wesson Rev.	162585	91-4085-137
27 mm.	Walther Signal Pistol	9179	80-14
380	Colt Automatic	115473	7-575-6709
32	Harrington & Richardson Rev.	102435	42-479-3
32	Smith & Wesson Rev.	131910	7-576-3124
32	Iver Johnson Rev.	30284	70-7342
32	Iver Johnson Rev.	—	87-4367
380	Colt Automatic	—	7-575-3721
27 mm.	Walther Signal Pistol	1842	80-14
32	Colt Automatic	304999	7-576
38 Spl.	Colt Rev.	obliterated	4-147811
38	Hopkins & Allen Rev.	30001	92-4468
32	Iver Johnson Rev.	48904	25-32475-32
45	Colt Automatic	739301	52-45290
32	Harrington & Richardson Rev.	409603	26-101165-9
45	Colt Automatic	0138594	92-44704-8
45	Colt Automatic	122703	92-44332-1
38 Long	Spanish Rev. & Holster	16317	15-17285-2
	Holster		80-14
38 Spl.	Colt Revolver	140632	49-15642-32
32	Smith & Wesson Revolver	95712	47-27653-213
32	Fabrique d'Armes de Guerre Auto	2317	42-4992
25	Colt Automatic	250039	87-3226-31
7.65 mm	Spanish Automatic	84903	26-94035-4
7.65 mm	Spanish Automatic	49344	26-7331-15
32 Spl.	Spanish "sauri" Revolver	3221	47-34535-25
	Carbine V1 Rifle	obliterated	92-45776-3

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

Handwritten: Memo to Dept 3-27-47 Jue

Handwritten: 17-576

Handwritten: 17-576

SAC, St. Paul

August 20, 1947

Director, FBI

BREKID

RECORDED

7-576-15277

90202

EX-34 There are transmitted herewith two copies of a blind memorandum containing a description and serial number of a number of firearms recovered during the course of the investigation of captioned case which are presently maintained in the Bureau files.

You are advised that the Bureau is without authority to make permanent disposition of any of these firearms unless either a specific court order has been so issued by a court of competent jurisdiction or specific instructions have been received from the U. S. Attorney. Accordingly, the Bureau desires that in the near future you conduct a review of your files and determine from whom and the circumstances under which each firearm was recovered. Thereafter, you should consult with the appropriate U. S. Attorney and ascertain if any of these firearms might be of possible evidentiary value in any future proceeding which any of the surviving defendants in this case might wish to bring. Inasmuch as it is unlikely that the U. S. Attorney at this time will attempt to secure any court order concerning merely the disposition of these firearms, you should secure from the U. S. Attorney appropriate authority to dispose of any and all of these firearms which will not be of any evidentiary value whatsoever.

Enclosure

7-576

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED 7  
AUG 21 1947 P.M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

173

173 15 20 07 50

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gh

Mr. R. T. Harbo

September 6, 1947

T. F. Baughman

③  
BREKID

90203

Attached hereto is a letter from the St. Paul office dated August 27, 1947 concerning the disposition of various firearms confiscated during the investigation of the Bremer Kidnaping Case.

You will note that the United States Attorney in St. Paul has advised that the Bureau may dispose of the firearms in any way it sees fit. Undoubtedly this may be construed to mean that the firearms have no further evidentiary value. U. S. Attorney Anderson goes on to state, however, that he is hopeful that those firearms having particular public interest will be maintained by the Bureau for public display. Mr. Nichols has noted that he is in agreement with this suggestion.

These guns have no particular value insofar as the reference collection of firearms is concerned and inasmuch as they apparently have no further evidentiary value, it would seem that they should not be retained in the Laboratory.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that I be advised which of the confiscated weapons are considered of public interest in order that these weapons may be separated from the other guns and appropriately packed for storage. Further, it is recommended that authority be granted for the permanent disposition of the weapons which will not be utilized for display purposes.

WFW:MEG

*meg*

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Gurnea \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_

RECORDED

7-576-1527  
FBI  
63 MAR 8 1948

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: August 27, 1947

FROM : SAC, St. Paul

SUBJECT: BREKID

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	

Reference is made to Bureau memorandum dated August 20, 1947, requesting that an opinion be secured from the United States Attorney relative to the appropriate disposition of forty-three firearms which were confiscated from various subjects at St. Paul and vicinity during the investigation of the Bremer Kidnaping Case.

90204

I have consulted today with United States Attorney VICTOR E. ANDERSON, who advised that this letter may be construed by the Bureau as specific authority from him to dispose of in any way the Bureau sees fit the forty-three described firearms listed by the Bureau in its attachment to the memorandum dated August 20, 1947. Mr. ANDERSON stated he hopes these firearms, particularly those of public interest, will be maintained by the Bureau as they have in the past so the general public may have the opportunity to view same.

Mr. ANDERSON further pointed out that he expects to be in Washington on September 15 and 16, 1947, in conference with Assistant to the Attorney General DOUGLAS MCGREGOR, and at that time he would very much enjoy viewing some of these firearms. He stated if any additional authority other than this letter might be required, he would be glad to make up a special letter of authority while visiting at the Bureau.

ENN:EB  
7-30

Guns placed in Exhibit Room # 2 - 5th Floor

See memo 10-6-47 BMS to Mr. Harbo (80-14 file)  
See memo 10-10-47 BMS letter to Mr. Jones (80-14 file)  
See memo 9/6/47 T.F. Baughman to Mr. Harbo

File BMS  
4

RECORDED

44 1 7-5-76-1  
F B I  
21 MAR 5 1948

EX-63

Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Mohr	.....
Mr. Pennington	.....

*Logg*

*The file*

*Bredid*

*ENCLOSURE*

*7-576-1*  
*FBI*  
**15 OCT 8 1947**

*EX-65*  
*to 30-47*  
*872*

# **Bremer Kidnap Figure Makes Bid for Freedom**

Cassius McDonald, now serving 15 years in Sandstone federal penitentiary for his role as money changer in the Edward Bremer kidnaping, filed application in St. Paul federal court today for a writ of habeas corpus.



It was his third attempt to gain freedom on a writ. In 1943 he was denied a petition to have the sentence vacated.

McDonald, formerly of Detroit, has based previous requests for a writ on his claim that he had nothing to do with the kidnaping.

His newest application states that his sentence should have been terminated Feb. 26, 1946, if time off for good behavior is allowed.

McDonald's part in the Bremer case in St. Paul allegedly consisted in taking part of the ransom money abroad, exchanging it for foreign currency and then re-exchanging it in an attempt to cover the original money.

He was free in 1941 for four months on a habeas corpus writ, but was returned to prison when the circuit court of appeals affirmed the conviction.

*Minneapolis Star*  
*9-12-47*

Alvin Karpis

ENCLOSURE

7-576-15278

23

Photograph #38

Photograph showing front door of the apartment at 3343  
Canal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, occupied by Harpis and  
Hunter.

6

O. L. & R. W. H.

3" please

576-1527



25

Photograph #5

Photograph of the sidearms and rifles taken from the apartment occupied by Karpis and Hunter at 3343 Canal Street, New Orleans, La.

7-576-15278

25

7.7.44

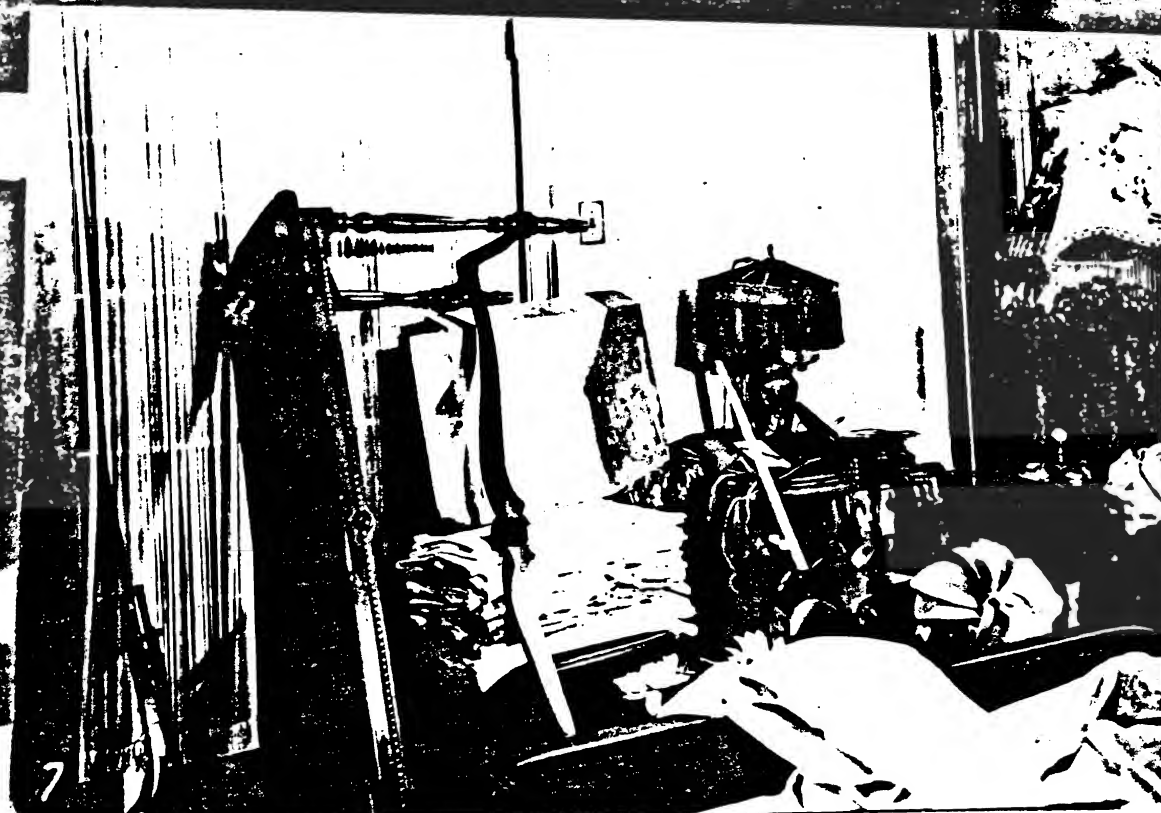
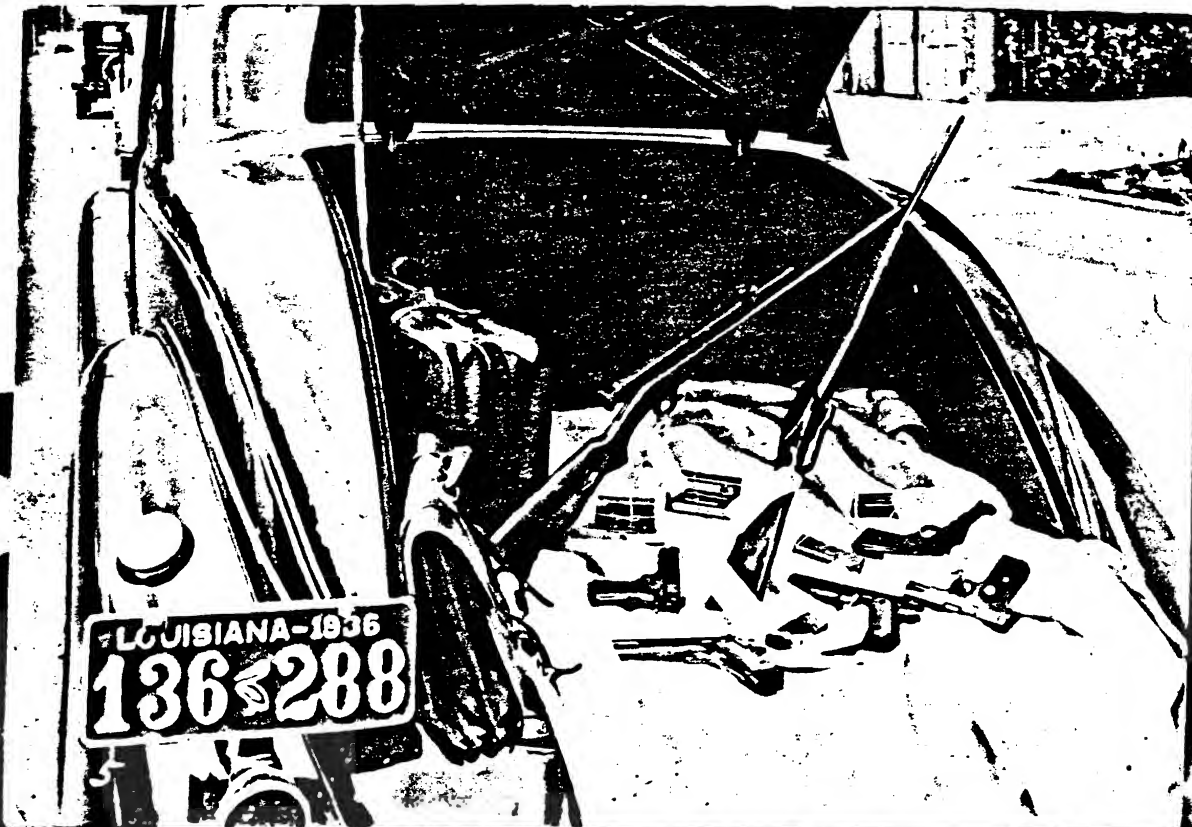
Photograph #7

Photograph of a portion of the bedroom of the apartment located at 3343 Canal Street, New Orleans, La., showing the manner in which this room was barricaded. Also shows the rifle with telescope sights leaning against the windows.

7-576-15278

24

7.7.44

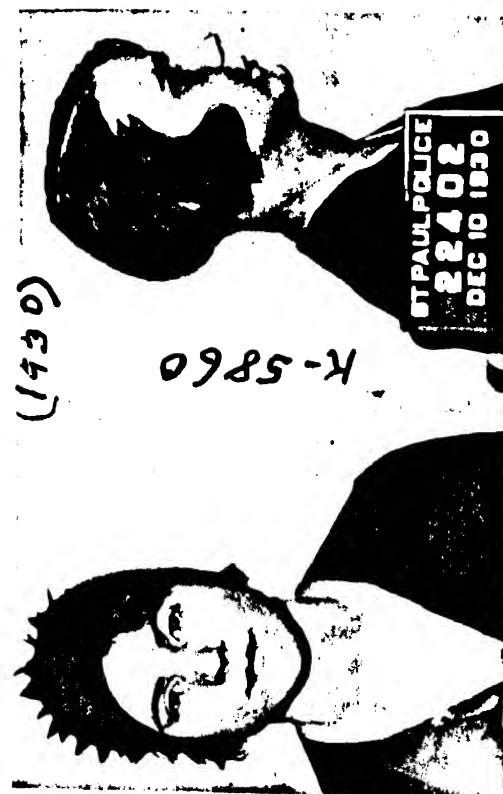




William J. Harrison



Mrs. C. P. Harmon



Myrtle Eaton



Byron Bolton alias Monte Carter



Edna Murr



Oliver A. Berg



Dr. Joseph P. Moran



Harry Campbell



William Weaver alias Phoenix Donald





Alvin Karpis



Fred Costz alias J. Geo. Zeigler



Russell Gibson



KATE BARKER



SAC, St. Paul

September 30, 1947

Director, FBI

REKID

The Bureau is in receipt of a newspaper clipping from the Minneapolis Star dated September 12, 1947, forwarded by your office indicating that the subject, Cassius McDonald, has recently filed an application for a writ of habeas corpus.

It is desired that you inform the Bureau as to the nature of this writ of habeas corpus and follow these proceedings closely advising the Bureau of the final outcome.

7-576

90205

JTL:gjb

EX-65

15 OCT 3 1947

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED 6

SEP 30 1947 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

OCT 1 1947

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: November 15, 1947

FROM : SAC, St. Paul

SUBJECT: BREKID  
(Bufile 7-567)

Re your memo dated 9/30/47 regarding CASSIUS McDONALD.

Assistant United States Attorney JAMES J. GIBLIN, St. Paul, Minnesota, advised on October 14, 1947, that McDONALD has been incarcerated since April 13, 1947, at the Federal Correctional Institution at Sandstone, Minnesota; that he applied for a writ on which an order to show cause was issued. Mr. GIBLIN stated that he filed a response to the order on October 7, 1947, at St. Paul, Minnesota. The Court appointed an attorney for McDONALD, but McDONALD would not accept him. Mr. GIBLIN further stated that the hearing on the order to show cause will be held when another attorney has been appointed, who will be acceptable to McDONALD.

90206

Mr. GIBLIN advised that the Department of Justice in Washington, D. C., knows all about this matter and has copies of all papers in their files.

The "St. Paul Dispatch" for November 5, 1947, contained the following newspaper article:

"CASSIUS McDONALD LOSES PRISON PLEA

"Cassius McDonald, money changer for the Karpis-Barker kidnap gang, lost his appeal for freedom today.

"Judge Dennis F. Donovan, in a motion filed with the clerk of federal district court here, denied McDonald's writ of habeas corpus whereby he sought his release from the Sandstone, Minn., federal institution.

"McDonald, serving a 15-year term for his conspiracy in the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, claimed that with time off for good behavior his sentence expired Feb. 26, 1946.

"In his decision, Judge Donovan pointed out that McDonald was at liberty on parole from Aug. 25, 1946 until last Aug. 13, a total of 352 days pending an appeal in Kansas City. As a result he must serve for the time he was at liberty."

The records of the Clerk of United States District Court, St. Paul, Minnesota, reflect that on November 4, 1947, there was filed with that office

COPIES DESTROYED

100 MAR 26 1964

RECORDED

17-576-15280  
EX-75 32

52 DEC 1 1947

J. S. SIMKINS  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
CORSICANA, TEXAS

November 12, 1947

Mr. Tolson.....  
Mr. E. A. Tamm.....  
Mr. Clegg.....  
Mr. Glavin.....  
Mr. Ladd.....  
Mr. Nichols.....  
Mr. Rosen.....  
Mr. Tracy.....  
Mr. Egan.....  
Mr. Gurnea.....  
Mr. Harbo.....  
Mr. Mohr.....  
Mr. Pennington.....  
Mr. Quinn Tamm.....  
Mr. Nease.....  
Miss Gandy.....

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Chief of Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

For many years I have watched the fine work that your organization has been conducting, and which has been a source of great gratification to myself, as well as to the great majority of true Americans who have watched your most highly successful work.

There is a case upon which I have been wanting to write to you for a long time. You will recall the Bremmer kidnapping case that occurred a number of years ago in Montana, as I recall it. The chief among this kidnapping bunch was a man named Volney Davis. When I saw this name, which is rather an unusual one, it lead me to wonder whether or not he was one and the same Volney Davis that at one time lived in Corsicana, Texas, and who was my desk mate in the public school in Corsicana, Texas, and if not whether he was the son of the Volney Davis with whom I attended school here. When you find time to do so, I would like for you to give me the background of this man Volney Davis that was caught and convicted of kidnapping and who is now, I take it, serving a term in the penitentiary.

This Volney Davis that I knew was about as mean a white boy as I ever came in contact with. He apparently had no fear and would fight anyone in anyway and with any means at hand.

I have been expecting for some time to come to Washington where I have a great many personal friends and when I do I am coming over to see you. Thanking you for the foregoing information, I am

Yours very truly,

JSS:jm

*J. S. Simkins*  
J. S. Simkins  
RECORDED 11-20-47  
INDEXED F B I  
EX-78  
115 NOV 25 1947  
576-15

November 20, 1947

RECORDED

EX-78

Mr. J. S. Sinkins  
Corsicana, Texas

Dear Mr. Sinkins:

Your letter dated November 12, 1947, has been received, and I want to express my appreciation to you for the kind remarks you made concerning this Bureau.

The kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer took place on January 17, 1934, at Saint Paul, Minnesota, and was perpetrated by the Barker Gang. Volney Davis was a member of this gang. At the present time Davis is incarcerated at the United States Penitentiary, Alcatraz Island, San Francisco, California, serving a life sentence for his part in this crime. I am enclosing a copy of the Identification Order which was issued at the time this Bureau was seeking his apprehension, together with other literature which may be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

FBI

RECEIVED-MAIL ROOM

Enclosure

IO #1234

The Story

Bibliography of Crime

NOTE: Files are negative with respect to this individual and the information concerning Davis was obtained from the IC prepared in this case.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED 3

NOV 21 1947 P.M.

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Tele. Room

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. TOLSON

DATE: 1/5/47

FROM : W. R. GLAVIN

SUBJECT:

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

Mr. Cozier of the Department of Justice communicated with me on January 2, 1948, and stated he had received an inquiry from the House Judiciary Committee concerning one Cassius McDonald.

I advised Mr. Cozier that McDonald was tied in as a go-between in the Bremer Kidnaping Case and, as I recalled it, had been sentenced to prison for his activities in that particular case. I further advised Cozier that McDonald is known as a racketeer and he is presently serving a prison sentence at Sandstone, Minn.

WRG:amb

EX-123

RECORDED

7-576-1528

F B I

34 JAN 10 1948

52 JAN 22 1948

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. E. A. TAMM

DATE: 2/18/48

FROM : R. A. ROSEN

Call 4:05 p.m.

SUBJECT: ELMER FARMER  
EDWARD G. BREMER - Victim  
KIDNAPING: WILLIAM HAMM, Jr., Victim, KIDNAPING.

SAC McSwain, Chicago, telephonically advised that the above individual is being released from prison and is endeavoring to set himself up in the restaurant or tavern business west of Chicago. Mr. McSwain said he would like to have the information concerning the status of his release, parole, etc.

McSwain was advised that this matter would be checked and he would be informed.

AR:WW

SE 25

RECORDED

27 FEB 20 1948

50 FEB 28 1948

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Tele. Room  
Miss Gandy

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. A. ROSEN *R*

DATE: February 19, 1948

FROM : W. H. C. *W.H.C.*SUBJECT: ELMER FARMER  
EDWARD G. BREMER - Victim  
KIDNAPING: WILLIAM HAMM, JR., Victim, KIDNAPING

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

Today I telephoned Miss Zora Woody, United States Board of Parole, and obtained the following information concerning Elmer Farmer in response to the telephone call from SAC McSwain to you yesterday.

Elmer Farmer was received at the United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, as number 47103-L on 6/14/35 to serve twenty years imprisonment imposed upon him at the U. S. District Court at St. Paul, Minnesota, after being convicted of conspiracy to violate the Federal kidnapping statute. Farmer was conditionally released from Leavenworth on 9/14/47 to the supervision of the U. S. Probation Officer, Chicago, Illinois. Miss Woody said that this was a statutory release based upon regular good time allowances plus extra good time he earned at Leavenworth in view of industrial services rendered (labor in the prison work shops) which is also provided for by statute (Public Law 67, 80th Congress). Miss Woody said the file at the Board of Parole failed to reflect any information concerning the subject's plan for employment but that these data and any other information concerning his activities might be obtained from the United States Probation Officer at Chicago, Illinois.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is recommended that this information be telephoned to SAC McSwain at Chicago in accordance with his request yesterday.

Addendum - 5:15 P.M.

The above information was furnished to SAC G. McSwain.

EJM:lg

RECORDED

7-576-15282  
F B I  
37 FEB 20 1948

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 7-77-1

50 FEB 28 1948

Mr. R. T. Harbo

March 6, 1948

T. F. Baughman

EDWARD G. BACMER

FIREARMS FOR DISPOSITION (File 80-14-1)

Following is a list of firearms which have no value insofar as the Reference Collection of Firearms is concerned and for which authority for permanent disposition has been granted by the Investigative Division. These weapons have no value for exhibition purposes and are being forwarded to the Chief Clerk's office for transfer to the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department in accordance with existing regulations.

File Number	Caliber	Type	Serial Number
15-2675	.38 Spl.	"Imperial" Spanish Revolver	1806
15-2675	.38	Colt DA Revolver	145269
15-2675	.38	S & W Revolver	11142
15-2675	.38	S & W Revolver	31565
15-2675	.38 Spl.	S & W Revolver	139596
62-29709	.32	U. S. Revolver	1932
62-29709	.32	Colt Automatic	60505
62-29709 ) 7-50 (	.12 Ga.	Browning Automatic Shotgun	148291
62-29709 ) 15-2675 (	.38 Spl.	G. A. C. Spanish Revolver	30182
62-29709	.38	Hopkins and Allen Revolver	F8888
62-29709	.38 Spl.	Colt Revolver	116986
62-29709 ) 62-29777 (	12 Ga.	Winchester Pump Shotgun	348922
7-576	.30	Browning Automatic Rifle	211349
7-576	.30	Browning Automatic Rifle	211774

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Lohr  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

60 APR-5 1948

RECORDED

EX-59

7-576-15

FBI

50 MAR 24 1948

Mr. R. T. Harbo

March 12, 1948

T. F. Baughman

Guns for Disposition

Attached hereto is a listing of 37 guns confiscated during the investigation of the Bremer Case (7-576) which were recently transferred from the Laboratory to the Cartographic Section for inclusion in and exhibit in the 5th Floor Exhibit Room.

These weapons have no value insofar as the Reference Collection of Firearms is concerned and authority for their use as exhibit material has been granted. The records of the Laboratory have been altered to reflect this transfer, and when the weapons have served their purpose as exhibits, they should be forwarded to the Chief Clerk's office for permanent disposition.

The mechanism of each weapon listed was rendered inoperative prior to its inclusion in the exhibit.

*Objections of...*

cc: 80-14-1  
Attachment

RECEIVED

RECORDED

7-576-15283  
FBI  
56 MAR 18 1948

INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

56 MAR 22 1948

ENCLOSURE

80-14-1-99  
COPY FILED IN

GUNS RECOVERED IN BREXER KIDNAP CASE

<u>Caliber</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Serial Number</u>
.38	Special S & W revolver	334010
.38	Special Colt Police Positive revolver	327183
.25	Colt automatic	327502
.45	Thompson Sub-Machine gun	9176
16 Gauge	Browning auto shotgun	92370
12 Gauge	Remington Auto shotgun	367197
.33	W.C.F. Winchester Rifle, Model 1885 (No #; FBI-26)	
.22	Winchester self-loading rifle	124138
.22	Colt Woodsman	93719
.33	W.C.F. Winchester rifle	154112 A
.401	Winchester self-loading rifle	12304
12 Gauge	Winchester pump shotgun	799868
.30	Browning Automatic rifle	(No #; FBI 26)
.20 Gauge	Ithaca "Auto-Surclar" shotgun	361601
.351	Winchester self-loading rifle	No number
.45	Colt auto pistol	C-151733
.38	Special Colt Police Positive revolver	273652
.25	Ortgies automatic pistol	140007
.380	Colt automatic pistol	119702
.22	Colt Woodsman	85506
12 Gauge	Remington Automatic shotgun	261109

ENCLOSURE 576-15283

<u>Caliber</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Serial Number</u>
.45	Colt Revolver, Model 1917	104773
.32	Colt Automatic pistol	421720
.380	Colt Automatic pistol	106616
.250-3000	Savage Lever action rifle	304481
.45	Thompson Sub-Machine gun	950
.32	Spanish revolver	X 11
.30	Browning Automatic rifle	(No #; RA: 27)
.32	Colt automatic	459861
.32	Colt automatic	433263
.32	Colt automatic	404724
.380	Colt automatic	113098
.45	Colt automatic	C162893
.45	Colt automatic	345132
.45	Colt automatic	C177278
.45	Colt automatic	C161847
.45	Colt automatic	C175221

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR  
FROM : SAC, ST. PAUL  
SUBJECT: BREKID

DATE: May 25, 1948

For information purposes, the following newspaper item appeared in the St. Paul Dispatch, St. Paul, Minnesota, for May 5, 1948:

"Briefs in the appeal for freedom by CASSIUS McDONALD, money changer for the Karpis-Barker mob, were filed today in the federal eighth circuit court of appeals.

"McDONALD, who is completing a 15-year prison sentence, is now in the Sandstone federal institution. He was sentenced here in 1936 as being the BREMER kidnaping ransom money changer.

"During the trial in federal district court in St. Paul, the government brought several Cuban bankers to testify that some of the ransom money was exchanged there.

"McDONALD is scheduled to be released July 7, regardless as to how the circuit court acts on his appeal."

RNP:JFC  
7-30

G.I.R.-9

EX-24

RECORDED - 77

17-576-15285  
FBI  
23 MAY 27 1948

51 JUN 7 1948

SAC, St. Paul

January 10, 1949

Director, FBI

BREKID

Reurlet December 31.

Since the information supplied by Mr. Masters which was obtained by him from Attorney LeSueur appears to pertain solely to the robbery of the Third Northwestern National Bank in the year 1932 and has no connection with instant case, there does not appear to be any purpose to be served in further exploring this matter.

Before referring the information supplied by Masters to the local police authorities who have jurisdiction over this bank robbery in 1932, it is suggested that you contact Mr. Masters and ascertain if it will be satisfactory with him to so furnish the information to the local authorities and determine if he desires that the identities of any of the individuals mentioned by him be kept confidential. Under those circumstances, the information may be furnished to the Minneapolis Police Department.

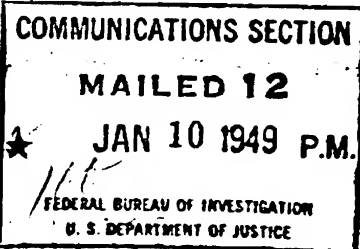
RECORDED - 9  
7-576 - 15286  
JTL:LS

EX-98

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 5-29-83 BY SP6 BJA/MS

C.N. 251138

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Gurnea \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Pennington \_\_\_\_\_  
Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
or Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



*JSW*

*RJR*

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: Dec. 31, 1948

FROM : SAC, ST. PAUL

SUBJECT: BREKID  
(Bureau file #7-576)ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 5-29-85 BY SP6 BJA/KP  
C.N. 251138

The following information is being reported in the above-captioned case inasmuch as it makes reference to the BARKER-KARPIS GANG:

GUY E. MASTERS, vice president, Main Office, Northwestern National Bank, Minneapolis, Minnesota, telephonically contacted this office on November 29, 1948, and stated that he possessed some information which he thought might be of interest to the FBI, especially in regard to the robbery of the Third Northwestern National Bank in Minneapolis some years ago, which bank is one of their branches.

Upon interview on November 30, 1948, MASTERS advised that recently he had a conversation with an attorney named ARTHUR LeSUEUR, who has offices at 1224 Metropolitan Life Building, Minneapolis, Minnesota, telephone GENEVA 5506. LeSUEUR, according to MASTERS, stated that his partner, Mr. MAXFIELD, was approached by a party named W. A. CHISHOLM with the idea of having MAXFIELD sell for CHISHOLM some stolen securities and bonds which were taken in connection with the robbery of the Third Northwestern National Bank in Minneapolis some years ago. CHISHOLM was reported to have identified himself to MAXFIELD as being part of the mob who pulled that job, and CHISHOLM further remarked that the securities had been placed in an envelope and were left with a Catholic priest for safekeeping. LeSUEUR also mentioned that W. A. CHISHOLM is reported to be in the U.S. Army at the present time.

MASTERS stated that if Mr. LeSUEUR were interviewed, he could furnish more detailed information regarding this incident.

MASTERS further advised that when the Third Northwestern National Bank was robbed in Minneapolis in 1932, stocks and bonds amounting to \$20,316.90 were taken, and none was ever recovered. However, MASTERS stated that these stocks and bonds, of which he has a list, are presently of no value as a duplicate of each security has been made. He further stated the Third Northwestern National Bank has been completely reimbursed by the Globe Indemnity Company, the Aetna Casualty and Surety Company, the National Surety Company, the Fidelity and Deposit Company of Maryland, and the American Surety Company of New York.

It might be stated at this time that the files of this office reflect that the Third Northwestern National Bank was held up and robbed by members of the BARKER-KARPIS GANG and during that robbery two Minneapolis policemen were murdered, as well as an innocent person in St. Paul.

COPIES DESTROYED  
160 MAR 26 1965

RECORDED - 84

7-576-  
JAN 3 1949

Memo, DIRECTOR

Re: BREKID  
(Bufile #7-576)

Dec. 31, 1948

At 1224 Metropolitan Life Building, Minneapolis, Minnesota, ARTHUR LeSUEUR, attorney, was interviewed on December 3, 1948. He advised that a friend of his, not a law partner, named GEORGE MAXFIELD, told him recently that he had been swindled out of about \$5000 in connection with a real estate deal with W. A. CHISHOLM; that as a result, CHISHOLM and MAXFIELD are now on the "outs", and MAXFIELD recently remarked that he was once approached by CHISHOLM, who asked him to dispose of some stolen bonds which had been taken in connection with a bank robbery in Minneapolis which he thought was the robbery of the Third Northwestern National Bank. LeSUEUR further advised that when MAXFIELD told him about this matter, MAXFIELD stated that he was told by CHISHOLM, a disbarred attorney, that inasmuch as he, MAXFIELD, had a very good reputation, MAXFIELD could dispose of the bonds for him. CHISHOLM also told MAXFIELD that if MAXFIELD would not help him get rid of the bonds, he, CHISHOLM, would have to return the bonds to the priest from whom he got them.

ARTHUR LeSUEUR advised that GEORGE MAXFIELD can be reached at DuPont 0648 in Minneapolis, and he suggested that GEORGE MAXFIELD be personally interviewed as he would, undoubtedly, relate the entire story.

ARTHUR LeSUEUR advised he did not know whether the above incident happened recently or some time ago, but he stated that MAXFIELD just told him about it a short time ago and that he, in turn, passed the information on to Mr. MASTERS.

For record purposes, it might be stated that ARTHUR LeSUEUR is the stepfather of MERIDEE LeSUEUR, who is a key-figure Communist in Minnesota.

It was ascertained from a confidential source that DuPont 0648 is listed to HERMAN M. MOE, 2716 Cedar Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The 1948 Minneapolis City Directory makes no reference to anyone named GEORGE MAXFIELD. However, there is listed a WILLIAM A. (MARGARET C.) CHISHOLM, who is a chief engineer with the U. S. Engineers and who resides at 1509 East 22nd Street.

A check of the indices of this office reflected that in St. Paul file #100-6495 there is a report of SA ROY O. STUART, St. Paul, dated April 29, 1947, in the case entitled "THE COLUMBIAN PARTY, aka The Columbians, Inc., ET AL, INTERNAL SECURITY - X". That report makes reference to "National Order of Twenty-One" being incorporated in Minnesota on March 16, 1938. On May 25, 1938, the name was changed to "National Brotherhoods, Inc." That report reflects that the

Memo, DIRECTOR

Re: BREKID  
(Bufile #7-576)

Dec. 31, 1948

officers thereof were various individuals including WILLIAM A. CHISHOLM, state director, and GEORGE A. MAXFIELD, secretary-treasurer.

b7C [REDACTED]

Mrs. SWANSON of the Employment Bureau, General Mills, Inc., 701 - 1st Avenue South, Minneapolis, advised on December 3, 1948, that they had no employment record for GEORGE A. MAXFIELD but stated that a record might be located at 400 - 2nd Avenue South.

b7C [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

St. Paul file #62-0 (serial 7648) contains a memorandum from the Boston Office to the Bureau dated August 27, 1947, entitled "United American Veterans and Auxiliary, Inc.", wherein reference is made to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Memo, DIRECTOR

Re: BREKID  
(Bufile #7-576)

Dec. 31, 1948

b7C

Name:  
Address:  
  
Age:  
Height:  
Weight:  
Hair:  
Eyes:  
Complexion:  
Build:  
Occupation:  
Police No.:  
Fingerprint Classification:  
  
Criminal Record:

[REDACTED]

By letter dated December 3, 1948, the Identification Division of the Bureau was requested to furnish the identification record of [REDACTED] which they did, and he is [REDACTED] His record is as follows:

Contributor of Fingerprints	Name and Number	Arrested or Received	Charge	Disposition
--------------------------------	-----------------	-------------------------	--------	-------------

b3

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Memo, DIRECTOR

Re: BREKID  
(Bufile #7-576)

Dec. 31, 1948

63

Contributor of Fingerprints	Name and Number	Arrested or Received	Charge	Disposition
--------------------------------	-----------------	-------------------------	--------	-------------

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The following is the description of this individual as  
appearing on print [REDACTED]

Color:  
Sex:  
Address:

Birthplace:  
Citizenship:  
Date of Birth:  
Height:  
Weight:  
Hair:  
Eyes:  
Complexion:  
Build:

[REDACTED]

It is the recollection of older agents of this office that in connection with the investigation of the kidnapping of Mr. BREMER the name of a priest did appear in connection with the kidnapping negotiations, and if it is absolutely necessary to obtain the name of this priest, the old files of this office can be perused or else the name could probably be obtained from EDWARD G. BREMER, who is still in the banking business in St. Paul.

Memo, DIRECTOR

Re: BREKID  
(Bufile #7-576)

Dec. 31, 1948

Inasmuch as the above information is believed to relate to a bank robbery which occurred prior to 1934 when the FBI obtained jurisdiction, and furthermore because it appears that WILLIAM A. CHISHOLM is an employee of the War Department, Bureau advice and instructions are desired as to whether this office should interview GEORGE A. MAXFIELD, 2716 Cedar Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota, and thereafter interview WILLIAM A. CHISHOLM, 1509 East 22nd Street, Minneapolis.

If Bureau instructions are to interview both MAXFIELD and CHISHOLM, advise whether it would be agreeable to take along a representative of the Minneapolis Police Department as that law enforcement agency would still have an interest in the robbery of the Third Northwestern National Bank inasmuch as two members of the Minneapolis Police Department were murdered by the bandits.

If Bureau instructions and advice are to the effect that this office should not interview MAXFIELD or CHISHOLM, please advise whether it would be agreeable to furnish to the Minneapolis Police Department a brief resume of the above facts so that they, themselves, can interview MAXFIELD and CHISHOLM.

No further inquiry will be made by this office pending Bureau advice and instructions.

RNP:JFC  
7-30

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: January 21, 1949

FROM : SAC, St. Paul

SUBJECT: BREKID  
(Bureau File #7-576)

Re our letter dated December 31, 1948, and your letter dated January 10, 1949.

GUY E. MASTERS, Vice President, Main Office, Northwestern National Bank, Minneapolis, Minnesota, advised on January 14, 1949, that it was perfectly all right with him for this office to furnish the Minneapolis Police Department with information he previously submitted.

Accordingly, on January 18, 1948, a brief resume of the pertinent information was furnished to Inspector of Detectives EUGENE BERNATH, Minneapolis Police Department, and to Detective LAWRENCE WALTON of his office. They advised that they will interview GEORGE MAXFIELD and will then give consideration to what further inquiries they desire to make.

There being no other outstanding investigation pending in this territory, this case is being closed.

RNP:LKO

7-30

2

RECORDED - 121

INDEXED - 121

17-576-15287  
F B I  
4 JAN 25 1949

EX-116

62 JAN 23 1949

7-576-15288

SE 38

RECORDED - 137

INDEXED - 137

January 28, 1949

AIR MAIL

Mr. C. F. Buroham  
Flour Middle East, S. A.  
Abqaiq, Saudi Arabia

Dear Mr. Buroham:

Your letter of January 17, 1949, has been received and I want to thank you for your offer to be of assistance to this Bureau. From the information you furnished, however, no record can be located in our files to indicate that the individual you mentioned is wanted at the present time by the FBI. Notices were received by this organization in 1932 from the Indianapolis Police Department and in 1936 from the State Bureau of Identification at Des Moines, Iowa, that a person such as you described was wanted by those agencies. It is suggested that you may wish to send complete details regarding his present whereabouts to those organizations in the event he is wanted at the present time.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

cc-Foreign Service

NOTE: A one Charles Adams with aliases among which is the alias of Curley Klouse, FBI #185726, has been sought by several law enforcement organizations for burglary and robbery violations and at one time was wanted by the FBI in connection with the Bremer kidnapping. However, at the present time only the above mentioned wanted notices are outstanding in the Identification Division. As correspondent wants his identification kept confidential it is suggested that he communicate with those agencies.

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED 12

JAN 28 1949 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FBI  
RECEIVED-NVH 400M

8 52 PM '49

Jan. 7. 1949. abqais  
Saudi Arabia

F.B.I. Washington D.C.

Dear Sir

Could you give me any information on a man by  
the name of Klose or Clouse he went by  
the first name of Curley. he was at one time  
a teller in a bank at Lion city Iowa and  
married a woman by the name of Winnie-  
Estelmon, and he has been wanted by the Govern-  
ment and by police all over for mail robberies and  
bank jobs from 1920 up until at least 1930 when  
I happen to know I am a nephew by marriage. I  
will most sure I could give you enough information  
so he could be picked up. I have known this for  
some time but haven't been in a position to do any-  
thing about it, all I am interested in is collecting  
the rewards without any one knowing I had anything  
to do with it. because I have a nice family and I  
want them to stay that way. and if they found out  
who turned them in it would just lead to lots of  
trouble, this man Klose has run a lot of stuff  
in front of my eyes. please give me all of the information  
you can in your first letter. Thanking you very much

C. W. Ouchman

Flour Middle East.  
abqais, Saudi Arabia

P.S. Please answer this as soon as you can

RECORDED - 1375 7-576 1528  
JAN 11 05 PM '49  
FEB 2 1949

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI  
 FROM : SAC, St. Paul  
 SUBJECT: BREKID  
 (Bureau File 7-576)

DATE: June 15, 1949

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Mohr	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

Reference is made to St. Paul letter to Bureau dated September 12, 1944, which reflects detailed information which was furnished by Mrs. DELLA LOWERY and her brother, LEONARD HANKINS, who was then at the State Hospital, St. Peter, Minnesota.

Reference should also be made to Bureau memo to St. Paul dated December 16, 1944, reflecting that the Criminal Division of the Department advised that the institution of criminal proceedings was not warranted, and that further investigation was not desired.

In view of the following information, as suggested above, reference should be made to St. Paul letter dated September 12, 1944.

By letter dated May 15, 1949, LEONARD HANKINS advised this office as follows:

"Dear Mr. Rhodes,

"I feel it is most important that I should see you at the earliest date possible. I can only say in this letter -- you will not regret making the trip out to see me. I truly hope it is possible for you to make the trip in person -- but if not -- send anyone you may wish to send.

"Thanking you in advance,

/s/ Leonard Hankins"

At the Minnesota State Prison, Stillwater, Minnesota, SA RICHARD N. FRANKE interviewed LEONARD CLIFTON HANKINS, and he immediately recognized Agent FRANKE as the agent who had interviewed him previously at the State Hospital, St. Peter, Minnesota. HANKINS remarked that he is no. 11551, and was received at the prison February 3, 1934, from Hennepin County, Minnesota, to serve a life sentence for first degree murder which involved the robbery of the Third Northwestern National Bank, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

RNP:FKB  
 7-30

cc: St P File 73-107 (Charles Allen Ward  
 Restoration of Civil Rights)

RECORDED - 123

INDEXED - 123

JUL 26 1949

RECEIVED

AUG 4 1949

June 15, 1949

HANKINS stated that the information which he previously furnished to Agent PRANKE at St. Peter, Minnesota, (in 1944) was still true and correct, and he stated that he was transferred back to the Minnesota State Prison, Stillwater, Minnesota, during the fall of 1948.

*from State Hospital, St. Peter, Minn*

HANKINS mentioned that Murder, Inc., is still being operated out of the Minnesota State Prison, and he remarked that GEORGE YOUNG and JOSEPH SCHAEFER, including RUBIN SHETSKY, still appear to run the prison, whereas Warden LEO UTECHT is merely a "Charlie McCarthy." HANKINS further mentioned that at one time YOUNG and SCHAEFER used to have a private room where they would eat steaks; however, he stated now both YOUNG and SCHAEFER appear in the mess hall with the other inmates, but they seldom eat the same food as the others do. He stated that both YOUNG and SCHAEFER also have in their cell blocks small electric plates whereby they can make coffee at any time they desire.

HANKINS stated that several years ago he personally complained to Warden UTECHT about the special privileges that YOUNG and SCHAEFER of Murder, Inc., were getting, and at that time Warden UTECHT told him that he, UTECHT, would see to it that HANKINS spent the rest of his life in prison, and that he would never get out. HANKINS further remarked that when BENJAMIN "BUGSY" SIEGEL of Murder, Inc., was alive, it was nothing unusual for SIEGEL to visit YOUNG and SCHAEFER at the prison, and they would generally meet in the Warden's office, instead of at the regular visiting room.

HANKINS mentioned that he personally believes that Warden LEO UTECHT is making every effort to hinder his, HANKINS, getting a parole or pardon, as HANKINS stated he believes that UTECHT "is afraid of him" for the reason that UTECHT knows that HANKINS knows too much about UTECHT's criminal connections.

HANKINS further stated that he previously told about \$100,000 supposed to be coming from CHARLES WARD of Brown and Bigelow, St. Paul, Minnesota, which money was to get YOUNG and SCHAEFER out of prison.

HANKINS remarked that he understands that Warden LEO UTECHT has a son who is supposed to be an office manager for CHARLES WARD at Brown and Bigelow.

(It might be stated that the 1948 St. Paul City Directory lists WILLIAM R. (MAUREEN) UTECHT as being Department Manager at Brown and Bigelow and as residing at 1447 West California Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota.)

HANKINS stated that about two months ago he was told that his case was going to be heard by the Minnesota State Pardon Board, and he advised that his attorney,

Memo to Director

Re: BREKID

June 15, 1949

JOHN J. KELLY of the Rand Tower Building, Minneapolis, Minnesota, was to assist him. HANKINS stated that the night before he was supposed to appear before the Pardon Board he became very ill, and as a result, the guards and Deputy Warden took his temperature, which was over 103 degrees, and he stated instead of being taken to the hospital he was thrown into solitary confinement for nine continuous days, and slept on nothing but a piece of canvas. Subsequently, HANKINS stated he learned that his attorney, Mr. KELLY, represented him at the hearing, but he has never been officially advised as to the outcome.

HANKINS' main complaint at this time is that it seems funny to him that he, an innocent man, should be kept in prison for an offense which he never committed. HANKINS stated that since he has been in prison he has hired a number of attorneys and all that they seem to do is to take his money, and he personally believes that they do not make very much of an effort to try to get him out of prison.

HANKINS stated that he understands that the FBI, the Attorney General for the United States, and the Federal Government have in their possession information and evidence to prove, beyond any doubt, that he was not involved in the robbery and murder of two police officers at the Third Northwestern National Bank, but that the robbery and murders were committed by the members of the famous Barker-Karpis Gang.

(TTS - pg 4 - also by [unclear])

HANKINS stated that he personally believes that LEO UTECHT, Warden, Minnesota State Prison, takes a personal interest in his case every time it is supposed to come before the Pardon Board, and he believes that UTECHT must tell the Pardon Board a "bunch of lies" about him, as he cannot understand why the Pardon Board with such evidence will not pardon him.

He believes that, inasmuch as he knows so much about UTECHT's favoritism for certain inmates, UTECHT is afraid if he gets out on the street he may publish such reports and cause an investigation. HANKINS stated for this reason he believes UTECHT is the person responsible for him staying in prison.

HANKINS further related that within the last month or two a number of nightclubs in Minneapolis sent to the prison their entertainers who put on a show for the inmates. According to HANKINS, YOUNG, SCHAEFER and RUBIN SHETSKY were allowed to sit in a special section to watch the show, and he later heard through gossip that the women entertainers returned the following day and were taken to the basement of the prison, and thereafter Warden UTECHT personally took YOUNG, SCHAEFER and SHETSKY to the basement, where he left them alone with some of the women entertainers.

HANKINS further stated that the newspapers made reference to his case coming up before the Pardon Board, and he stated that those newspaper clippings should be

Memo to Director

Re: BREKID

June 15, 1949

made a part of his complaint, as they reflect that the Government possesses information that he is innocent of the crime for which he is serving.

HANKINS specifically asked as to whether or not M. B. RHODES, head of the FBI in St. Paul, could make a visit to the Governor's office and personally see Governor LUTHER W. YOUNGDAHL to determine why the Minnesota State Pardon Board does not give him a pardon when the Government knows that he is innocent.

HANKINS further stated that he is getting disgusted with employing various attorneys as he stated they seem to be making no progress in getting him out of prison, and he often wonders whether or not the attorneys are influenced by conversations they have with Warden UTECHT. HANKINS further advised that LEO UTECHT always uses the statement that he, HANKINS, is crazy, and that is why he was sent to the State Hospital at St. Peter, Minnesota.

HANKINS further stated that he would like to see that the above information gets to the proper Government officials and was advised that the same would be forwarded to the FBI headquarters at Washington, D.C., who would undoubtedly transmit same to the Attorney General's office.

For the information of the Bureau, RUBIN SHETSKY, mentioned above, was the subject in the case entitled, "RUBIN SHETSKY, was., UFAP (MURDER)." Instant file contains newspaper clippings and it is believed that similar copies are in possession of the Bureau; nevertheless, I am transmitting herewith two copies each of the following newspaper items which relate to the HANKINS case before the State Pardon Board:

- St. Paul Pioneer Press, St. Paul, Minnesota, for 4/7/49, entitled, "Leonard Hankins, Barker Gangster, Will Ask Parole";
- Minneapolis Morning Tribune, Minneapolis, Minnesota, for 4/7/49, entitled, "4 Seek Pardons From Life Terms";
- St. Paul Dispatch, St. Paul, Minnesota, for 4/7/49, entitled, "Hankins Parole Plea to Recall Gang Days";
- St. Paul Dispatch, St. Paul, Minnesota, for 4/12/49, entitled, "FBI Records Show Hankins Innocent, State Board Told."

For information and record purposes, the following incident is being reported:

After Hankins was interviewed, Agent PRANKE returned to the office of ORVILLE ENGSTROM, Secretary to the Warden, and inquired whether agent could look at Hankins' file. In the past, ENGSTROM has given agents the entire file of the inmate so that the agent could thoroughly peruse same. On this occasion, ENGSTROM got the file but held it and immediately remarked, "Hankins is a nut." He then asked as to what

Memo to the Director

Re: BREKID

June 15, 1949

information agent desired, and he was told that agent was primarily interested in knowing when HANKINS last appeared before the Pardon or Parole Board, and ENGSTROM remarked that HANKINS has never had a parole hearing, but his case has been heard by the Pardon Board on several occasions, but it has always been turned down. He remarked that the State Pardon Board will not hear HANKINS' case again until 1957.

This office will not conduct any further inquiries regarding this matter unless a specific request to do so is received from the Bureau.

- C L O S E D -

The following article appeared in the "St. Paul Dispatch" for April 12, 1949:

"FBI RECORDS SHOW HANKINS  
INNOCENT, STATE BOARD TOLD"

"The state pardon board was told today that the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the state crime bureau show that Leonard Hankins, Stillwater lifer, is an 'innocent man.'

"Hankins was convicted of complicity in the Third Northwestern National bank robbery in Minneapolis on Dec. 16, 1932, when two policemen were shot to death. A St. Paul man was killed at Como Park during the flight of the gang.

"At one time the pardon board voted to free Hankins and send him to Kentucky where he is wanted on a robbery charge. The decision was rescinded when Kentucky authorities refused to take him because he had been sent to the St. Peter State hospital and labeled 'insane.' He now is back in Stillwater after having been adjudged sane.

"John J. Kelly, Minneapolis attorney who originally defended Hankins at his trial on the murder charge, pointed to a confession by Jess Doyle, member of the Barker-Karpis mob, absolving Hankins of a part in the holdup.

"Lawrence DeVol, who pleaded guilty to a murder charge after admitting he machine-gunned the policeman, also had given authorities statements exonerating Hankins, the attorney told the board. DeVol, after serving a number of years in Stillwater, was transferred to St. Peter from where he later escaped. Subsequently he was killed in a gun fight.

"The FBI took a statement from Doyle and released excerpts of it to the state pardon board more than 10 years ago when the state crime bureau was ordered to make an investigation of the case.

"Leonard Hankins never would have been convicted on the identification testimony received at the trial of his case if it had not been for the fact that he was connected with Lawrence DeVol through testimony which we know now to be false,' Kelly said.

"Named by Kelly as members of the gang that robbed the bank--based on the FBI confessions--were Fred Barker, Arthur (Doc) Barker, DeVol, William Weaver, Alvin Karpis, Verne Miller and Doyle.

"The Barkers, Miller, Karpis and DeVol are dead. Weaver is serving a life term in Alcatraz for participating in the kidnaping of Edward Bremer, St. Paul banker. Doyle was tried in the Bremer case, but was acquitted. However, he was sent to Nebraska to serve a term for a Nebraska bank holdup. The pardon board took the case under advisement."

The following article appeared in the "St. Paul Dispatch" for April 7, 1949:

"HANKINS PAROLE PLEA TO RECALL GANG DAYS"

"Echoes of the days when St. Paul was gangdom's haven will resound in Gov. Youngdahl's office Tuesday when the strange case of Leonard Hankins, Stillwater lifer, comes up before the state pardon board.

"Hankins was convicted as a participant in the sensational daylight robbery of the Third Northwestern bank, Minneapolis, and the machine-gun massacre of two policemen and a civilian in Como park a few hours later Dec. 16, 1932.

"The combined holdup and murder was prelude to the terror the infamous Barker-Karpis gang was to bring to this area for the next few years. Included were the South St. Paul payroll robbery and the William A. Hamm and Edward G. Bremer kidnappings.

"Hankins has steadfastly maintained his innocence in the Minneapolis bank job. His claims have been backed by confessions made by Jess Doyle, another Barker-Karpis gang member, who admitted being driver of the automobile used in the double crime. Lawrence (Larry) DeVol, the trigger-happy bandit who confessed that he machine-gunned the Como park victims, also absolved Hankins of any part in the holdup.

"FBI records show that \$112,000 loot from the bank robbery was shared by Alvin Karpis, Fred and Harold (Doc) Barker, DeVol, William Weaver, Verne Miller and Doyle.

"Five days later DeVol was arrested in a Grand avenue apartment. More than \$16,000 of the bank loot was in his possession, according to the FBI.

"DeVol, after serving a number of years in Stillwater, was transferred to St. Peter state hospital. He escaped and later was killed in a West coast gunfight.

"While Harold Stassen was governor, the pardon board decided to release Hankins to Kentucky, where he was wanted on a robbery charge. But, while the board was considering his case, Hankins was transferred to the St. Peter hospital. Kentucky refused to accept him because he was labeled "insane."

"Later considered sane, Hankins was returned to Stillwater. This will be Hankins' tenth appeal for freedom."

The following article appeared in the "Minneapolis Morning Tribune" for April 7, 1949:

"4 SEEK PARDONS FROM LIFE TERMS"

"Karpis Gang Member  
Makes 10th Appeal

"Four Stillwater prison 'lifers' including a former member of the famed Barker-Karpis gang which terrorized the Midwest in the 1930's, will seek their freedom from the state pardon board Tuesday.

"Leonard Hankins, 53, convicted of shooting one of two policemen killed during a holdup of the Third Northwestern National Bank of Minneapolis on Dec. 16, 1932, is a former gang member now seeking release from a life term.

"If he wins his case, Hankins said he will waive extradition to Kentucky, where he is wanted by the McCracken county sheriff to serve out the balance of a 10-year term for robbery. He escaped from the Princeton county jail at Paducah, Ky., after serving only four months.

"It will be Hankins' 10th appeal for freedom. All previous requests have been turned down.

"Other lifers for whom freedom pleas will be made when the board meets in Gov. Luther Youngdahl's office are Robert Engler, 59, convicted in 1935 in Hennepin county of killing his common-law wife; Charles W. Forbes, 54, convicted in 1919 in McLeod county of killing a man in a famous 'cornfield murder' case; and Walter Westerlund, 54, who pleaded guilty in 1921 in Becker county to killing a man after an argument."

The following article appeared in the "St. Paul Pioneer Press" for April 7, 1949:

**"Leonard Hankins, Barker Gangster, Will Ask Parole"**

By John T. Withy  
United Press Staff Correspondent

"Four Stillwater prison 'lifers,' including a former member of the famed Barker-Karpis gang which terrorized the Midwest in the 1930's, will seek their freedom from the state Pardon board Tuesday.

"Leonard Hankins, 53, convicted of shooting one of two policemen killed during a holdup of the Third Northwestern National bank of Minneapolis on Dec. 16, 1932, is the former gang member seeking release from a life term.

"If he wins his case, Hankins has said, he will waive extradition to Kentucky, where he is wanted by the McCracken county sheriff to serve out the balance of a 10-year term for robbery. He escaped from the Princeton county jail at Paducah, Ky., after serving only four months.

"It will be Hankins' 10th appeal for freedom. All previous requests have been turned down.

**3 OTHERS SEEK RELEASE**

"Other lifers for whom freedom pleas will be made are Robert Engler, 59, convicted in Hennepin county of killing his common-law wife; Charles W. Forbes, 54, convicted in McLeod county of killing a man in a celebrated 'cornfield murder' case, and Walter Westerlund, 54, who pleaded guilty in Becker county to killing a man after an argument.

"Pardon board records show that seven witnesses to the bank robbery identified Hankins as one of the gang, which also included the Barker brothers, Alvin Karpis, Clarence and Lawrence Devol, and Robert Newborn. Other witnesses said Hankins took part in a later robbery of the Kraft State bank at Menomonie, Wis.

"Hankins, however, denies any part in the robbery or machine-gunning of the two policemen, Ira L. Evans and Leo Gorski. He claims he was in a St. Paul barber shop at the time of the crime, and that independent reports made by federal agencies confirm his alibi.

"Hankins came originally from Princeton, Ky. He was sentenced to a life term at Stillwater on Feb. 6, 1933.

4  
ENCLOSURE

7-576-15289

"Engler, who has been at Stillwater since 1935, pleaded guilty to shooting his common-law wife, Clara Claesegens, who operated a rooming house at 1331 Hawthorne ave., Minneapolis. He said in his application that he does not seek immediate release, but commutation of his life term.

"Forbes and Myron Basset, now paroled, were convicted in McLeod County Dec. 15, 1919, of killing Gust Larson, who had picked them up in his car. Larson was struck over the head with a crank, gagged, robbed and left in a cornfield to die.

"Forbes claimed Basset was the instigator and the man who struck Larson.

"Westerlund entered Stillwater prison Oct. 12, 1921, after admitting he shot Albert Nasuth, a farmhand near Shell Lake, in an argument over purchase of Nasuth's car. He claims he did the shooting in a "moonshine craze" and has undergone religious conversion since entering prison.

"In all, the board has 66 cases on its one-day agenda. Other board members are Chief Justice Charles Loring of the state supreme court and Attorney General J. A. A. Burnquist. It will be the board's quarterly meeting."

6

Assistant Attorney General Alexander M. Campbell

July 11, 1949

Director, FBI

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS  
Leonard Hankins - Informant  
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Reference is made to Bureau memorandum to Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark dated October 4, 1944, bearing the above caption and to a memorandum from the Criminal Division of the Department dated October 26, 1944 bearing the above caption, reference TCC:EB:ALM; 144-39-5.

The above referenced Bureau memorandum set out allegations voluntarily given to an Agent of the St. Paul office in 1944 by Leonard Hankins, an inmate of the Minnesota State Prison, Stillwater, Minnesota, serving a life sentence for first degree murder in connection with the robbery of the Third Northwestern National Bank in Minneapolis, Minnesota, against Warden Leo Utecht of the Minnesota State Prison, Stillwater, Minnesota. These allegations were to the effect that Warden Utecht had by his own actions as Warden, and by his official influence over other individuals, prevented Hankins from having his case brought up before the Pardon Board for consideration. He alleged that Warden Utecht was friendly toward certain inmates who were associated with, and members of "Murder, Incorporated", and that these individuals dominated the Warden. He pointed out that he believed the Warden realizes that he, Hankins, was aware of these connections and that the Warden was afraid Hankins would expose such connections if released from prison. This memorandum also contained information which was furnished to Agents of this Bureau by Jess Doyle and Alvin Karpis in 1935 to the effect that Hankins was not connected with the robbery of the Third Northwestern National Bank in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The identification record of Hankins was furnished to you in the above referenced Bureau memorandum.

This memorandum also contained statements made to Bureau Agents by Mrs. Della Lowery, sister of Hankins. Mrs. Lowery alleged that Hankins was not receiving proper medical treatment and that he was being treated as an insane individual when actually he was sane. She felt that Hankins was innocent and that Warden Utecht had prevented his release from prison.

The above referenced Bureau memorandum was furnished to you in order that an opinion might be furnished the Bureau as to whether any violation of the Federal Law existed and whether this Bureau should conduct any investigation in this matter.

By the above referenced memorandum from the Criminal Division of the Department this Bureau was advised that from the information presently available it appeared that the institution of criminal proceedings was not warranted, and that no further investigation is desired.

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

Leonard Hankins has recently directed a letter to the St. Paul office requesting that he be contacted by an Agent of the Bureau. Since request he was contacted and Hankins voluntarily furnished the following information:

44-1193-420  
cc: 7-576  
INDEXED  
7-576-15290  
NOT RECORDED  
43 AUG 8 1949  
DUPLICATE FOLLOW

Memo to Assistant Attorney General Alexander H. Campbell

He, at the present time, is assigned No. 11551, and was received at the Minnesota State Prison, Stillwater, Minnesota, February 3, 1934 from Hennepin County, Minnesota to serve a life sentence for first degree murder which involved the robbery of the Third Northwestern National Bank, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Hankins claimed that the information which he previously furnished to an agent of the St. Paul office while an inmate in the State Hospital, St. Peter, Minnesota in 1944 was true and correct. He stated he had been transferred from the State Hospital at St. Peter back to the Minnesota State Prison at Stillwater in the fall of 1948.

He mentioned that Harter, Incorporated is still being operated out of the Minnesota State Prison and that George Young and Joseph Schaefer, as well as Rubin Shetky still appear to run the prison, whereas Warden Leo Utecht is merely a "Charlie McCarthy." He pointed out that at one time Young and Schaefer had a private room where they could eat steaks. However, at the present time both Young and Schaefer appear in the mess hall with the other inmates but seldom eat the same food as is served to the others. Both Young and Schaefer have in their cell blocks small electric plates on which they can make coffee at any time they desire.

Several years ago he personally complained to Warden Utecht about the special privileges that Young and Schaefer of Harter, Incorporated were getting and at that time Warden Utecht told him that he, Utecht, would see to it that he spent the rest of his life in prison and that he would never get out. Hankins remarked that when Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel of Harter Incorporated was alive it was not unusual for Siegel to visit Young and Schaefer at the prison and that they would generally meet in the Warden's office instead of in the regular visiting rooms.

He believed that Warden Utecht was making every effort to hinder his obtaining a parole or pardon. He believed that Utecht "is afraid of him" for the reason that the Warden knows that he has too much information about Utecht's criminal connections.

Hankins again mentioned the information which he had previously furnished about \$100,000 which was supposed to be coming from Charles Ward of Brown and Bigelow, St. Paul, Minnesota, which money was to assist in obtaining a release from the prison for Young and Schaefer. He understood that Warden Utecht has a son who is supposed to be an office manager for Charles Ward at Brown and Bigelow. (It will be noted that the 1948 St. Paul City Directory lists one William R. Utecht as being department manager at Brown and Bigelow, and as residing at 1447 West California Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota).

About two months ago he was told that his case was going to be heard by the Minnesota State Pardon Board and his attorney John J. Kelly of the Rand Tower Building, Minneapolis, Minnesota was to assist him. The night before he was supposed to appear before the Pardon Board he became very ill and as a result the guards and the Deputy Warden took his temperature, which was over 103 degrees, and instead of being taken to the hospital he was thrown into solitary confinement for nine continuous days and slept on nothing but a piece of canvas. Subsequently, Hankins stated he learned that his attorney, Mr. Kelly, represented him at the hearing, but he has never been officially advised as to the outcome.

Memo to Assistant Attorney General Alexander M. Campbell

Hankins' main complaint at the time of this last interview was that it seems funny to him that he, an innocent man, should be kept in prison for an offense which he never committed. He pointed out that since he has been in prison he has hired a number of attorneys and all that they seem to do is to take his money. He does not believe that they made very much of an effort to try to get him out of prison.

Hankins stated that he understands that the FBI, the Attorney General for the United States, and the Federal Government have in their possession information and evidence to prove, beyond any doubt, that he was not involved in the robbery and murder of two police officers at the Third Northwestern National Bank, but that the robbery and murders were committed by the members of the famous Barker-Karpis Gang. (In regard to this statement of Hankins please refer to paragraph 5, page 4 of the above referred to Bureau memorandum which sets out information contained in the file of this Bureau in regard to statements made by one Jess Doyle and Alvin Karpis)

Hankins went on to state that he personally believes that Warden Utecht takes a personal interest in his case every time that it is supposed to come up before the Pardon Board, and he believes that Utecht tells the Pardon Board "a bunch of lies" about him as he cannot understand why the Pardon Board with such evidence will not pardon him.

He believes that since he knows so much about Utecht's favoritism for certain inmates that Utecht is afraid that if he gets out on the street he may publish such reports and cause an investigation. It was Hankins opinion that for this reason Utecht is personally responsible for him staying in prison.

He pointed out that within the past month or two a number of nightclubs in Minneapolis sent to the prison their entertainers who put on a show for the inmates. Young, Schaefer and Shetsky were allowed to sit in a special section to watch the show and he later heard through gossip that the women entertainers returned the following day and were taken to the basement of the prison, and thereafter Warden Utecht personally took Young, Schaefer and Shetsky to the basement where he left them alone with some of the women entertainers.

He pointed out that the local newspapers made reference to his case coming up before the Pardon Board, and he desired that these newspaper clippings be made part of his complaint as they reflect that the Government possesses information that he is innocent of the crime for which he is serving.

He pointed that he was getting disgusted with employing various attorneys as they seem to be making no progress in getting him out of prison and he often wonders whether or not the attorneys are influenced by conversations they have with Warden Utecht. He also pointed out that Warden Utecht always uses the statement that he, Hankins, is crazy, and that is why he was sent to the State Hospital at St. Peter, Minnesota.

Hankins requested that the above information be furnished to the proper Government officials in order that his case might have proper consideration.

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gurnea \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Pennington \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Memo to Assistant Attorney General Alexander M. Campbell

One copy of the following newspaper articles which appeared in the local newspapers in regard to Hankins' case are being enclosed herewith:

St. Paul Pioneer Press, St. Paul, Minnesota, for 4-7-49, entitled, "Leonard Hankins, Barker Gangster, Will Ask Parole";  
Minneapolis Morning Tribune, Minneapolis, Minnesota, for 4-7-49, entitled, "4 Seek Pardons From Life Terms";  
St. Paul Dispatch, St. Paul, Minnesota, for 4-7-49, entitled, "Hankins Parole Plea to Recall Gang Days";  
St. Paul Dispatch, St. Paul, Minnesota, for 4-12-49, entitled, "FBI Records Show Hankins Innocent, State Board Told."

It will be noted that at the conclusion of the interview of Hankins, the secretary to the Warden of Minnesota State Prison, Stillwater, Minnesota advised the agent of the St. Paul office that Hankins has never had a parole hearing but that his case has been heard by the Pardon Board on several occasions and has always been turned down. It was stated that the Pardon Board will not hear his case again until 1957.

No further action is being taken by this Bureau in regard to this matter unless advised to the contrary by the Department.

DCR:smw

Reference Departmental memo to the Bureau dated October 26, 1944 appears in file 44-1125. Bureau memo to the Department dated October 4, 1944 appears in file 7-576-15260 and file 44-1103-1. Recent information furnished to the Department was obtained from St. Paul memo to the Bureau dated June 15, 1949 entitled Brekid.

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gurnea \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Pennington \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



United States Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

IA-6



IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO

FILE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

DATE 8-16-49

MEMORANDUM FOR:

IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

REFERENCE:

NAME

*Dr. Joseph P. Moran*

FUGITIVE INDEX NO.

*5885*

F.B.I. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

SERIAL NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER IDENTIFYING NO.

*St. Pen. Joliet, Ill  
# 2382*

SUBJECT LOCATED: \_\_\_\_\_

PROSECUTION DISMISSED ☒

ON

*7-22-49*

*St. Louis, Mo.*

ACTION TO BE TAKEN:

CANCEL FUGITIVE STOPS FOR:

CRIMINAL INDEX ☒

S.S. INDEX \_\_\_\_\_

DESERTER INDEX \_\_\_\_\_

CANCEL WANT IN L. E. B. ☒

IDENTIFICATION ORDER NO.

*1232*

DATE OF FUGITIVE CARD

*10-12-34*

IDENT. MEMO RECEIVED

YES \_\_\_\_\_

NO \_\_\_\_\_

ADD ADDITIONAL ALIASES \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION \_\_\_\_\_

CRIMINAL RECORD \_\_\_\_\_

*Case 48 want  
8/20/49  
[Signature]*

REMARKS: \_\_\_\_\_

51 SEP 7 1949

BUREAU FILE NO.

*7-576*

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: July 29, 1949

FROM : SAC, St. Paul

SUBJECT: BREKID  
(Bureau File #7-576)

Memo to
Ident. and Records
Date 8-16-49
Per. [initials]

For the information of the Bureau, there is transmitted herewith a copy of a letter dated June 29, 1949, which Honorable JOHN W. GRAFF, United States Attorney, St. Paul, Minnesota, sent to the Attorney General, copy of which was received by this office on June 30, 1949; also transmitted, is a copy of a letter dated July 22, 1949, which I received from Mr. GRAFF, as well as a copy of a "Petition to Dismiss Pending Indictments" and a copy of the "Order" of ROBERT C. BELL, United States District Judge, dated July 22, 1949.

The Bureau's attention is directed to the individual named JOSEPH PATRICK MORAN.

It is noted that Identification Order No. 1232 issued September 14, 1934, is still outstanding against Dr. JOSEPH P. MORAN, was., Joseph B. Moran, Joseph C. Moran, which Identification Order reflects that MORAN is wanted for questioning in connection with the kidnaping of EDWARD G. BREMER at St. Paul, Minnesota, on January 17, 1934.

In view of the information furnished by Mr. GRAFF, the Bureau may desire to cancel the above Identification Order for MORAN.

No further action will be taken as the result of the above information unless a specific request to do so is received from the Bureau.

RNP:FKB  
7-30  
Encls.

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

- James R. [unclear]  
all subs 7/29/49  
- Miami Technical Section  
muc/cgme

RECORDED

7-576-152

SEP 1 1949

[Handwritten signature]

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3  
Y

United States Department of Justice  
\*\*\*\*\*

In Reply Refer To  
JJG-hls

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
221 Federal Courts Building  
St. Paul 2, Minnesota

10-5615 (#5)

July 22, 1949.

Mr. M. B. Rhodes,  
Special Agent in Charge,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
404 New York Building,  
St. Paul (1), Minnesota

In re: Dismissal of pending kidnap  
Indictments - Alvin Karpavicz,  
et al.

Dear Sir:

We enclose a copy of Order of the District  
Court, Robert C. Bell, Judge, signed and filed today,  
dismissing a number of pending kidnap Indictments to  
which is attached copy of our Petition in the matter.

Very truly yours,

/s/ John W. Graff

JOHN W. GRAFF,  
United States Attorney

Encl.

C  
O  
P  
Y

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA  
THIRD DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
  
Plaintiff,  
  
-vs-  
  
ALVIN KARPAVICZ, et al,  
  
Defendants.

Nos. 6095, 6096, 6174, 6248,  
6249, 6257, and 6258.

PETITION TO DISMISS PENDING  
INDICTMENTS

JAMES J. GIBLIN, Assistant United States Attorney for the District  
of Minnesota, petitions and shows to the Court as follows:

That Indictment No. 6095 returned January 22, 1935, is pending here-  
in against the defendants Arthur R. Barker, Harry Campbell, Elmer Farmer,  
Harold Alderton, William Weaver, Harry Sawyer, William J. Harrison, John Doe  
and Richard Roe wherein they are charged with having kidnapped and trans-  
ported one Edward G. Bremer in violation of Title 18 U.S.C.A. 408 (a).

That Indictment No. 6096 returned January 22, 1935, is pending herein  
against the defendants Harry Campbell, William Weaver, Harry Sawyer, William  
J. Harrison, Joseph Patrick Moran, (Whitie), Myrtle Eaton, John Doe and  
Richard Roe, wherein they are charged with having conspired to kidnap and  
transport interstate one Edward G. Bremer in violation of Title 18 U.S.C.A.  
408 (a).

That Indictment No. 6174 returned September 27, 1935, is pending  
herein against the defendants Arthur (Doc) Barker, William J. Harrison,  
Byron Bolton, Elmer Farmer and Harold Alderton, wherein they are charged with  
having conspired to transport interstate one Edward G. Bremer in violation of  
Title 18 U.S.C.A. 408 (a).

That Indictment No. 6248 returned April 22, 1936, is pending herein  
against the defendants Arthur (Doc) Barker, Byron Bolton, John P. Peifer,  
Charles J. Fitzgerald, Elmer Farmer and Edward C. Bartholmey, wherein they

are charged with having conspired to kidnap and transport interstate William Hamm, Jr., in violation of Title 18 U.S.C.A. 408 (a).

That Indictment No. 6249 returned April 22, 1936, is pending herein against the defendants Arthur (Doc) Barker, John P. Peifer, Charles J. Fitzgerald, Byron Bolton, Elmer Farmer and Edward C. Bartholmey, wherein they are charged with having conspired to kidnap and transport interstate one William Hamm, Jr., in violation of Title 18 U.S.C.A. 408 (a).

That Indictment No. 6257 returned June 11, 1936, is pending herein against the defendants Arthur Barker, John P. Peifer, Charles J. Fitzgerald and Elmer Farmer, wherein they are charged with having conspired to kidnap and transport interstate one William Hamm, Jr., in violation of Title 18 U.S.C.A. 408 (a).

That Indictment No. 6258 returned June 11, 1936, is pending herein against the defendants Arthur Barker and Elmer Farmer wherein they are charged with having conspired to transport interstate one William Hamm, Jr., in violation of Title 18 U.S.C.A. 408 (a).

That with respect to all of the defendants against whom Indictments are pending as above set forth, they have heretofore been sentenced or they have never been apprehended or identified or there has not been evidence available, sufficient for prosecution and some are no longer living, as follows, to-wit:

Arthur R. Barker, sometimes called Arthur Barker, now dead, sentenced to life imprisonment in Criminal No. 6096 on May 17, 1935.

Harry Campbell convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment in Criminal No. 6174, sentenced to life imprisonment on May 12, 1936.

Elmer Farmer convicted and sentenced to 20 years in Criminal No. 6096 on June 7, 1935.

Harold Alberton convicted and sentenced to 20 years in Criminal No. 6096 on June 7, 1935.

William Weaver convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment in Criminal No. 6174 on January 24, 1936.

Harry Sawyer convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment in Criminal No. 6174 on January 24, 1936.

William J. Harrison, never apprehended and is now dead.

John Doe in Criminal No. 6095 and No. 6096 was never identified or apprehended.

Richard Roe in Criminal No. 6095 and 6096 was never identified or apprehended.

Joseph Patrick Moran was never identified or apprehended, and believed now to be dead, in Criminal No. 6096.

"Whitie" was never identified or apprehended, in Criminal No. 6096.

Myrtle Eaton, insufficient evidence available for prosecution and was turned over to Federal authorities in Florida where convicted on a charge of harboring, in Criminal No. 6096.

Byron Bolton, on August 25, 1936, sentenced to 3 years imprisonment in Criminal No. 6095, No. 6096, No. 6257 and No. 6258, and John P. Peifer, on July 31, 1936, sentenced to 30 years imprisonment in Criminal No. 6258, are now dead.

Charles J. Fitzgerald sentenced to life imprisonment on July 27, 1936, in Criminal No. 6258.

Edward C. Bartholmey sentenced to 6 years on August 15, 1936 in Criminal No. 6258.

That the public interests do not require that further prosecution be had with respect to any of the defendants herein named against whom said Indictments are pending and the cases should be closed on the books of the Clerk of the United States District Court at St. Paul, Minnesota.

That by letter dated July 18, 1949, the Attorney General of the United States authorized the United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota to

petition the Court for an Order to dismiss the cases so pending as hereinabove set forth with respect to the defendants therein specified. \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREFORE, it is requested that an Order issue herein to dismiss the said pending Indictments against the said specified defendants herein named.

Dated: July 21, A.D., 1949.

/s/ James J. Giblin

JAMES J. GIBLIN

Assistant United States Attorney for  
the District of Minnesota

ORDER

On the foregoing Petition of JAMES J. GIBLIN, Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota, it is:

ORDERED that the Indictments pending herein may be and hereby are dismissed as to certain defendants, as follows:

No. 6095 as to Arthur R. Barker, Harry Campbell, Elmer Farmer, Harold Alderton, William Weaver, William J. Harrison, Harry Sawyer, John Doe and Richard Roe.

No. 6096 as to Harry Campbell, William Weaver, Harry Sawyer, William J. Harrison, Joseph Patrick Moran, "Whitie", Myrtle Eaton, John Doe and Richard Roe.

No. 6174 as to Arthur Barker, William J. Harrison, Byron Bolton, Elmer Farmer and Harold Alderton.

No. 6248 as to Arthur Barker, Byron Bolton, John P. Peifer, Charles J. Fitzgerald, Elmer Farmer and Edward C. Bartholmey.

No. 6249 as to Arthur Barker, John P. Peifer, Charles J. Fitzgerald, Byron Bolton, Elmer Farmer and Edward C. Bartholmey.

No. 6257 as to Arthur Barker, John P. Peifer, Charles J. Fitzgerald and Elmer Farmer.

No. 6258 as to Arthur Barker and Elmer Farmer.

Dated: July 22, A.D., 1949

/s/ Robert C. Bell  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE.

Filed July 22, 1949

C  
O  
P  
Y

JJG-hls

10-5615 (#5)

June 29, 1949.

The Honorable,  
The Attorney General,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D.C. (25)

Attention: Honorable Alexander M. Campbell,  
Assistant Attorney General.

Re: Permission to dismiss pending kidnap  
Indictments. Your Ref.: BM:HAF:muh  
109-39-1.

Sir:-

On March 24, 1939, we wrote you concerning seven certain pending Indictments in the Third Division of this District against a number of specified defendants including Alvin Karpavicz, Arthur (Doc) Barker, Volney Davis, et al, wherein the defendants were charged with several crimes relating to the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer and William Hamm, Jr. We informed you in that letter as to the many life and other long term sentences that were meted out to the several defendants in connection with their convictions and pleas of "guilty" to charges set forth in other Indictments, and we asked for permission to dismiss the pending Indictments.

In your letter to us of March 31, 1939, you gave us authority to dismiss all of the pending Indictments as to the defendants that were enumerated in your letter of that date. But on April 11, 1939, we wrote you that there was a possibility that Volney Davis who had received a life sentence, and who was not represented by counsel at the time of his plea, might attempt to obtain his release on a writ of habeas corpus, and that for other reasons it might be well not to dismiss the Indictments, and you therefore wrote us on April 20, 1939 suggesting that we withhold the dismissal of the Indictments.

Ten years have elapsed since our exchange of letters with reference to these dismissals, and some other changes in the matter have come about, and we can see no good reason now for carrying these Indictments on our books and records as pending cases, and we think that they should be dismissed.

Attorney General #2,  
June 29, 1949.

If we may have the authority to dismiss as expressed in your letter to us of March 31, 1939, it will cover the situation as it exists at the present time, with this modification to be noted: as to Alvin Karpavicz named in six pending Indictments, who was sentenced to life imprisonment on July 27, 1936 in Case No. 6258, he filed a motion back in 1941 to dismiss all of the pending Indictments against him or to bring them to trial, and with your authority all the pending Indictments against him were nolle on April 28, 1941, and as to Volney Davis named as a defendant in pending Indictments Nos. 6095 and 6174, he made a similar motion and the Indictments pending against him, with your authority, were nolle on December 9, 1941.

There are no pending Indictments in these matters now as to Alvin Karpavicz or Volney Davis.

We, therefore, desire the same authority that you gave us in your letter of March 31, 1939, with respect to the dismissal of Indictments as to the defendants named in your letter, excepting as to Alvin Karpavicz and Volney Davis. Though it will make no difference with respect to the authority that we desire, it may be noted that according to our records, the named defendants, Arthur (Doc) Barker, William J. Harrison, John P. Peifer and Joseph Patrick Moran are dead.

Respectfully yours,

JOHN W. GRAFF,  
United States Attorney.

cc --  
FBI

ENCLOSURE

7-576-15291

7-576-15291

August 29, 1949

Apprehension Order #

FPC: 18 M 9 T 1 8  
L 1 U 11 11

Dear Sir:

FBI Identification Order #1232 on Dr. Joseph P. Moran,  
with aliases, is hereby cancelled inasmuch as process was dismissed  
at St. Paul, Minnesota, on July 22, 1949.

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

MCC:alb

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Nease

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED 8  
★ SEP 1 1949 P.M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

7-576-15291

RECEIVED  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
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**IDENTIFICATION**  
**ORDER NO. 1232**  
September 14, 1934.

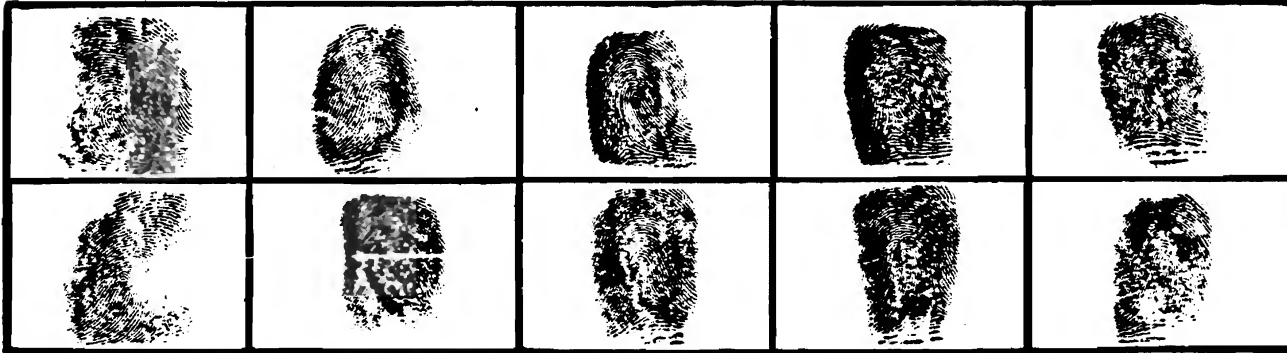
**DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION**  
**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**  
**WASHINGTON, D. C.**

**Fingerprint Classification**  
18 M 9 T 1 S  
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**WANTED**

DR. JOSEPH P. MORAN, with aliases,  
JOSEPH B. MORAN, JOSEPH C. MORAN.

**KIDNAPING**



**DESCRIPTION**

Age, 38 years (1934); Height, 5 feet, 10 inches; Weight, 155 pounds; Build, medium; Hair, chestnut sandy; Eyes, yellow dark slate; Complexion, light; Scars and marks, III brows ell. conn.

**RELATIVES:**

Dr. James Moran, brother,  
112 West Cleveland Street,  
Spring Valley, Illinois.  
Mrs. Kate Lauer, sister,  
314 East Dakota Street,  
Spring Valley, Illinois.  
Mrs. F. Leslie Brock, sister,  
221 West Monroe Street,  
Princeton, Indiana.  
Mrs. L. A. (Annie) Chappell, sister,  
Tabernash, Colorado.

Photo taken November 17, 1928



**CRIMINAL RECORD**

As Joseph B. Moran, alias Joseph C. Moran, #2382, received State Penitentiary, Joliet, Illinois, November 17, 1928, from LaSalle County, Illinois; crime, abortion; sentence, 1 to 10 years; paroled April 7, 1930; returned from parole January 23, 1931; paroled December 15, 1931.

*Joseph P. Moran*

Dr. Joseph P. Moran is wanted for questioning in connection with the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer at St. Paul, Minnesota, on January 17, 1934.

Law enforcement agencies kindly transmit any additional information or criminal record to the nearest office of the Division of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

If apprehended please notify the Director, Division of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., or the Special Agent in Charge of the office of the Division of Investigation listed on the back hereof which is nearest your city.

7-576-11

Issued by: JOHN EDGAR HOOVER, DIRECTOR.

7-576-75291

RECORDED - 1

August 29, 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MECHANICAL SECTION

RE: ALVIN KARPIS, was;  
DR. JOSEPH P. MORAN, was,  
FUGITIVE, I.O. 1232, ET AL  
EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM  
KIDNAPING; HARBORING  
(BREMER)

Transmitted herewith is a draft of an Apprehension Order on  
Dr. Joseph P. Moran. This cancels Identification Order #1232.

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover  
John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Enclosure  
MCC:alb

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

AUG 31 8 00 PM '49

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN  
F B I  
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

2 00 PM '49  
RECEIVED-MAIL ROOM

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gurnea \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Pennington \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED 8  
★ SEP 1 1949 P.M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

2 SEP 13 1949

DH

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. LADD  
 FROM : Mr. ROSEN  
 SUBJECT: ALVIN KARPIS, was; DR. JOSEPH P. MORAN, was.  
 FUGITIVE - I.O. #1232, ET AL  
 EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM  
 KIDNAPING - HARBORING  
 (BREKID)

DATE: August 29, 1949

Mr. Tolson  
 Mr. E. A. Tamm  
 Mr. Clegg  
 Mr. Glavin  
 Mr. Ladd  
 Mr. Nichols  
 Mr. Rosen  
 Mr. Tracy  
 Mr. Carson  
 Mr. Egan  
 Mr. Gurnea  
 Mr. Harbo  
 Mr. Hendon  
 Mr. Pennington  
 Mr. Quinn Tamm  
 Tele. Room  
 Mr. Nease  
 Miss Holmes  
 Miss Gandy

PURPOSE:

To inform you of the dismissal of the indictment against Dr. Joseph Patrick Moran by U. S. District Court, St. Paul, Minnesota on July 22, 1949 on the basis that Moran was never identified or apprehended and believed now to be dead. 6-1  
 67-1  
 62-1

BACKGROUND:

Dr. Joseph P. Moran was incarcerated at the State Penitentiary, Joliet, Illinois, November 17, 1928 after a conviction for the crime of abortion. Paroled on April 7, 1930 he violated the terms of his parole and was returned to the penitentiary on January 23, 1931. He was again paroled December 15, 1931.

While in the penitentiary he engaged in medical work and became acquainted with numerous hoodlums who were incarcerated there. He also met various labor leaders who visited the penitentiary and through such contacts he became physician for the Chicago Chauffeurs Teamsters and Helpers Union after his release from the penitentiary. As physician for the Union he became closely associated with the Touhy mob and the Capone syndicate. When the Union was re-organized in August 1933 Moran was dropped as its physician and he then opened an office on Irving Park Boulevard for the practice of medicine. Many of his underworld friends continued to call upon him. Investigation disclosed that about March 10, 1934 he operated on the fingers and faces of Alvin Karpis and Fred Barker to alter their fingerprints and facial characteristics. Moran's rooms at the Irving Hotel were used as a rendezvous by members of the Karpis-Barker gang and at various times contained many thousands of dollars of the ransom money. Coincident with the announcement in the press on April 28, 1934 of the arrest of John J. McLaughlin, Sr. and others Moran abandoned his residence at the Irving Hotel and fled to Toledo, Ohio.

On January 22, 1935 he was indicted by the U. S. District Court at St. Paul with others on a charge of conspiring in the Bremer kidnaping. Identification Order 1232 had been issued September 14, 1934 but as this was prior to the indictment the I.O. stated that Moran was wanted for questioning in connection with the Bremer kidnaping.

Investigation disclosed according to the best information that Moran was last seen at the Casino Club, Toledo, Ohio during the latter part of

7-16

RECORDED

17-576-15226

MEMO TO MR. LADD

July 1934 while with Doc Barker, Russell Gibson and other members of the gang, Moran had become quite intoxicated. His associates tried to quiet him and he is alleged to have stated "I have you guys in the palms of my hands". He left the club with two of the gang and did not return. His present whereabouts are probably best determined by a remark made by Fred Barker to a member of the mob "Doc will do no more operating. The fishes probably have ate him up by now".

ACTION BEING TAKEN:

Attached hereto is a letter to all SACS informing that investigation is to be discontinued and there is attached also a draft of an apprehension order.

Attachment



SAC, ALBANY

August 29, 1949

Director, FBI

ALVIN KARPIS, was; DR. JOSE P. MORAN,  
was, FUGITIVE, I.O. 1232, ET AL  
EDWARD GEORGE BREMER, VICTIM  
KIDNAPING; HARBORING  
(REKID)

RECORDED - 61

7-576-15292

Discontinue investigation to locate subject Moran, as complaint was  
dismissed July 22, 1949, at St. Paul, Minnesota.

cc: ALL SACs

7-576

MCC:alb

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AUG 31 8 00 PM '49  
F B I  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED  
SEP 1 1949  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED  
AUG 31 7 20 PM '49  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Handwritten initials and signatures.

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI  
 FROM : SAC, Kansas City  
 SUBJECT: SAM COKER  
 FBI-355,433

DATE: December 27, 1949

*Porter*  
*APR 2-1*  
*APR 3-1*  
*EEI*

*SAM C COKER*

A news item with a Coffeyville, Kansas, date line of December 26, 1949, (Associated Press) chronicles that SAM COKER, age 53, of Caney, Kansas, FBI-355,433, was fatally injured in an automobile accident south of Coffeyville in the State of Oklahoma on December 25, 1949.

The Oklahoma City Office may desire to confirm this in order that the Bureau's records will be complete with respect to COKER, who it will be remembered was an associate of the BARKERS, ALVIN KARPIS and HARRY CAMPBELL.

DB:B  
 Enc. 1

cc - Oklahoma City

RECORDED - 69  
 SE 26

17-576-1529  
 DEC 29 1949  
 1

EX-78

*Did not post as  
 dead B/48-1*

*no such record in  
 writing with this memo.*

*323*  
 misc 11-1 60 JAN 16 1950

STANDARD FORM 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI  
FROM : SAC, Kansas City  
SUBJECT: SAM COKER  
FBI-355,433

DATE: January 10, 1950

1-23  
mail  
all filed

Please refer to Kansas City letter of December 27, 1949, in this matter.

A Special Agent of this office has contacted Chief of Police PETE BILLUPS and Captain ARTHUR GAMBLE of the Coffeyville, Kansas, Police Department, both of whom advise that the SAM COKER who was fatally injured in an automobile accident south of Coffeyville, Kansas, on December 25, 1949, is the same SAM COKER who had been an associate of the BARKERS, of ALVIN KARPIS and of HARRY CAMPBELL.

DB:B  
62-6381

cc - Oklahoma City

Porter  
Sent  
1-21-50  
JMS

RECORDED - 6

17-526-15294  
JAN 13 1950  
3

EX-87

one  
RJH

60 JAN 26 1950

316

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. H. B. FLETCHER

DATE: January 22, 1950

FROM : MR. L. N. CONROY

SUBJECT: BRIEF

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
 Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

The writer while on duty as night supervisor received a telephone call at 5:30 P.M. on January 22, 1950, from ASAC G. C. Gearty of the Cleveland Office.

Gearty stated he had been requested to determine whether the files of the Cleveland Office showed whether a technical resulted in the apprehension of Harry Campbell.

Gearty stated he could not determine this fact, and that all of the logs had been destroyed on January 18, 1942.

Gearty stated reference should be made to the report of Inspector E. J. Connelley, Cleveland, Ohio, dated May 18, 1936, and specifically to page 14 where it is set out that Earl Wynn checked the records of the Christ or Mercy Hospital to locate a record on Sam Coker. Through the records they located a nurse named Bobby Robletto, who identified a photograph of Harry Campbell as being identical with George Miller, and who took Agents to 2132 Monroe Street, where Miller had been residing.

According to Gearty, the above report also indicates that a phone call was made from a tavern in Toledo, Ohio, to a Clara McGraw and that Campbell was apprehended upstairs above the tavern as a result of the phone call. Gearty stated that SA Clyde E. Smith claims that he thinks the above phone call came to their attention as a result of a technical and he believes it was Harry Campbell's wife calling Clara McGraw, and that as a result of the call Campbell was apprehended upstairs over the tavern.

It was stated that SA Smith is of the opinion that Connelley wrote a letter to the Bureau setting forth the results of the tap. The Cleveland copy of the letter could not be found and it is believed that it was placed in the "P and C" file and probably later destroyed.

Gearty suggested that Connelley be called for definite information in connection with this matter.

Gearty stated he would be at his home in the event he was again wanted.

## ACTION:

Refer to Mr. F. J. Baumgardner for his information.

50 FEB 10 1950  
 7-576

C  
O  
P  
Y

MR. H. B. FLETCHER

January 22, 1950

MR. F. J. BAUMGARDNER

ALVIN KARPIS, was.  
ARTHUR R. BARKER, was.  
RUSSELL GIBSON, was., et al  
EDWARD GEORGE BERMER - VICTIM  
KIDNAPING  
Bureau file #7-576

In connection with the preparation of the brief on wire tapping for the Director it became necessary to prepare a case write-up in the captioned matter to call the Cleveland office in order to verify certain statements which appeared in the Bureau files. In view of this fact, I called the Cleveland office at 9:10 am, January 22, and talked with Special Agent Shoaff who was on duty. I told SA Shoaff that a technical surveillance had been placed on the home of Edward and Clara McGraw at 2011 1/2 Adam Avenue, Toledo, Ohio, on April 25, 1936. This technical surveillance was discontinued on May 6, 1936. The information which I wanted him to verify was to the effect that the McGraws had received a telephone call on May 4, 1936, which led to the apprehension of Harry Campbell, a fugitive for whom the Bureau was searching. I told SA Shoaff that he could find information regarding this situation in a report of SAC E. J. Wynn of the Cleveland Office dated May 5, 1936. I further instructed him to verify the fact that the telephone call of May 4 to the McGraw's led to the apprehension of Harry Campbell and telephonically advise the Bureau.

SA Shoaff said that this would be done.

FJB:jdt

7-576-15296

From Volney Davis

P.M.B. #7101

(Date)

To Mr. J. Edgar Hoover Director F.B.I. Washington D.C.

(Name)

(Address)

(1)

INSPECTED

8

+3-1

70

Dear Sir:

I would have wrote this letter sooner but I have been trying to get a detainer lifted that has been against me through all these years. I am sure you know all about the case, for in your book entitled "Men in hiding" you mention the fact about Ma Barker going to visit a boy in jail, who she knows is not guilty of the crime for which he is charged and begs him to stand mute at his trial so she will have a better chance to get one of her sons out. One brother Doc Barker. Well I was the boy that let her persuade me to not make a defence of a charge that I was not guilty of, which I was convicted of and this case has hung around my neck like a mill stone for all these years. Even the foreman of the jury that tried me told my mother that the other jurors and himself didn't think I was guilty of the murder charge. But do to the fact that I had been in a jail break shortly before I was tried that they didn't feel justified in turning me loose. So he made a talk to the rest of the jury and told them that they would vote-

Volney Davis

File to  
Adm. Serv.  
3/9/50  
K.C.

RECORDED

27

7

EX-55

EFF 24 1950

56 MAR 24 1950

(over)

(2)  
for a conviction and give me a life sentence; then after I served five years they would recommend me for a parole. But little did they know that they would have no say in getting me out. I didn't learn about this until I had been in prison for several years. I had also escaped once and been in on several more attempts. So when I did find out about it I had such a record that no one would help me. For I was bitter and believed the whole world was against me. I was uneducated and came from a poor family. This all happened in 1921 to 1932. Some 29 years ago. In 1932 as you well know the Barker Brothers Doc, and Fred put up money to get me out of the Okla. State prison on what was known then as a leave of Absence. You are just released without any supervision of any kind. I went through all kinds of prison punishments while I was there. They didn't have any kind of a rehabilitation plan and I know if I had of found the kind of treatment I have received in the federal prisons that I would have been a different man today. I have learned my lesson the hard way and have spent 28 years of my life in prison. But as I told Mr. Lip Farland when he visited me here at this prison in 1935 that I knew I had done -

From

(Date)

To

(Name)

(Address)

(3)

wrong and that from then on I would do my best to make amends. "By calling him Slip Farland I don't mean any disregard for him". That is the only name I knew him by. We talked on several occasions. I know you are aware of the benefits of those talks to you and your office. For he let me read a letter you wrote to him wherein you told him to advise me that you would help me at a later date. Also here are the names of some more of your agents, at least the best I can remember their names who promised to help me to gain my release if I made good while here. Two were Mr Mostrom and Mr Risendorph of the N.C. office. Another was a Mr Madilia I don't know where he was from. Another was a Mr Brown that brought some pictures here for me to see from the Chicago office. I know you will remember all these agents. They all promised to help me. Now here is something I would like to try to clear up. The time that I refused to talk to your men while I was in Alcatraz. The continued visits they were forcing on me would have caused me to loose my life out there I believe. We were —

(OVER)

forced to, <sup>(4)</sup> make into a cell block, and the other prisoners were well aware of each visit. And it was common talk every time they visited the place. And our visits were about Earl Christman and I was in Chicago when he left. So I couldn't know where he stopped. I talked to Mr. Shuttleworth and he told me that I could terminate the visits any time I wanted to. So you know the rest. I told them I didn't want them to call me from my work any more. I hated to be so rude. But I believe by doing it, it is the only reason I am here to write you this letter. One time I believe I would have lost my life if it hadn't of been for the timely arrival of the plumber, a Mr. Klineamidt. I was fighting two men and had just been knocked down and almost out when Mr. Klineamidt came down in the kitchen basement. The fight stopped and I even had to go to the hospital to have some stitches taken in my jaw. I lied to the Dr. I told him I had hit myself with the leaves on the cutting paper press in the print shop where I was working at that time. Mr. Klineamidt just thought it was a scuffle. As the fight broke up as soon as he came in sight. But he would verify this if asked. I have taken a lot of abuse from inmates to keep my conduct record in as good shape as it is. I had been told that it was a trouble to not

From

(Date)

To

(Name)

(Address)

(5)

having any more social contacts with persons than are absolutely necessary. For I don't want to see them outside as my life from here on will not need their kind of friendship. As you well know I had made an effort to get away from these fellows I was with, long before I was caught. And I believe I would have been successful if I had of had a woman that wanted a home and children. But Edna Murry didn't want anything but the kind of life she had led up to that time. She may have changed after leaving the State prison at Jefferson City Mo. I don't know. I have never heard from her and don't want to. She served her purpose with me while we were both being hunted. But if I had of settled down with a woman when I was wanted by you I could have never had a moment's peace of mind. And the love I have for my relatives would have gotten me caught. For as long as I live I will keep in contact with them. I couldn't bring myself to marrying some innocent girl, which I could have done with ease, because I didn't want to drag her down with me when I was caught. Which I knew was inevitable.

(OVER)

(6)

About my escape from Mr Walter Traynor and Mr Staibach, I believe were their names. I didn't have no idea of escaping. I thought then the way I was being handled that I was being taken some place to be done away with. I knew I wasn't wanted in Chicago, And that is where we were supposed to be going. I thought the forced landing and the subsequent trip into town were part of the plan. I thoroughly believed after committing the act that let me escape that I would be shot by either the men who had been with me or other agents that I suspected were in that building. But being as I thought I was going to be done away with anyway I might as well get it over with. But by me doing that it taught me many things. Such as the end of life is unpredictable. And life even in prison can be pleasant if one can obtain peace of mind. That is man's greatest asset in this old troubled world. For with peace of mind the days pass one by one and you don't worry about the future and you think of the past as little as possible. Just live each twenty four hours and try to think good thoughts. And you will find there is some good in almost everyone. No man is perfect. Christ could not even make the people believe he was without sin. I may be making this letter

CONTINUED

From

(Date)

To

(Name)

(Address)

(7)

too long. As I know you are a busy man. But at times you are in need of help from other people too. So I will try to finish on this page. I was going to wait to write this letter until I had my detainee lifted which I firmly believe I will have in the near future. But from the news papers I have learned a man can be paroled altho he is wanted by another state. As for instance. Mr William Dudley Pelley was paroled from Terre Haute Indiana, Federal Prison and he was wanted in North Carolina. So I thought if my case merited consideration that I might be given the same chance. I don't know how long I would be in the Okla. State prison if I was returned there. But at least I would have a chance some day to clear myself of that charge of which I am not guilty. I also have the word of the parole board in Okla. that they would be glad to submit my case for a hearing in the event I was paroled from here. And due to the fact that I have a parole advisor who is a county commissioner in the town where my Father and Mother live and who has promised to furnish me with work if I am paroled.

(over)

(8)  
I feel sure they would cooperate in giving  
me a parole too. As I would be under the  
strict supervision of the Federal parole  
board. I believe if you will look into my  
record and the recommendations of help I  
have already received and my progress  
report from this prison, I believe you will  
think I have fulfilled my promise to  
Mr. Farland and to your demands  
through him to me. I haven't no friends  
to turn to. As I have never been out long  
enough and have not lived the proper life  
to make them. It is men like you and  
the prison officials who I have met that  
I must depend on. I have always made "what  
I consider as a friend" with the officials. So  
if you can see your way clear in helping me  
at this time. I will never give you cause to  
regret. I will close this letter with a verse that  
I intend to live up to. My creed.

To live as gently as I can.

To be, no matter where, a man;

To take what comes of good or ill,

And cling to faith and honor still;

To do my best and let that stand.

The record of my brain and hand;

And then, should failure come to me,

Still hope and work for victory.

P.S. I go before the Federal parole Board in April 1950.

COPY

Volney Davis  
P. M. B. 47101  
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director, F. B. I. Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I would have wrote this letter sooner but I have been trying to get a detainer lifted that has been against me through all these years. I am sure you know all about the case, for in your book entitled "Men in hiding" you mention the fact about Ma Barker going to visit a boy in jail, who she knows is not guilty of the crime for which he is charged and begs him to stand mute at his trial so she will have a better chance to get one of her sons out, one Arthur Doc Barker. Well I was the boy that let her persuade me to not make a defence of a charge that I was not guilty of, which I was convicted of and this case has hung around my neck like a mill stone for all these years. Even the foreman of the jury that tried me told my mother that the other jurors and himself didn't think I was guilty of the murder charge. But do to the fact that I had been in a jail break shortly before I was tried that they didn't feel justified in turning me loose. She he made a talk to the rest of the jury and told them that they would vote for a conviction and give me a life sentence, then after I served five years they would recommend me for a parole. But little did they know that they would have no say in getting me out. I didn't learn about this until I had been in prison for several years. I had also escaped once and been in on several more attempts. So when I did find out about it I had such a record that no one would help me. For I was bitter and believed the whole world was against me. I was uneducated and came from a poor family. This all happened in 1921 to 1932, some 29 years ago. In 1932 as you well know the Barker brothers Doc, and Fred put up money to get me out of the Okla. State prison on what was known then as a leave of absence. You are just released without any supervision of any kind. I went through all kinds of prison punishments while I was there. They didn't have any kind of a rehabilitation plan and I know if I had of found the kind of treatment I have received in the Federal prisons that I would have been a different man today. I have learned my lesson the hard way and have spent 28 years of my life in prison. But as I told Mr. Gip Farland when he visited me here at this prison in 1935 that I knew I had done wrong and that from then on I would do my best to make amends. "By calling him Gip Farland I don't mean any disregard for him". That is the only name I know him by. We talked on several occasions. I know you are aware of the benefits of those talks to you and your office. For he let me read a letter you wrote to him wherein you told him to advise me that you would help me at a later date. Also here are the names of some more of your agents, at least the best I can remember their names who promised to help me to gain my release if I made good while here. Two were Mr. Nostrom and Mr. Risendorph of the K. C. office. Another was a Mr. Madilia I don't know where he was from. Another was a Mr. Brown that brought some pictures here for me to see from the Chicago Office. I know you will remember all these agents. They all promised to help me. Now here is something I would like to try to clear up. The time that I refused to talk to your men while I was in Alcatraz. The continued visits they were forcing on me would have caused me to loose my life out there I believe. We were forced to sneak into a cell block and other prisoners were well aware of each visit and it was common talk every time they visited the place. And our visits were about Earl Chrisman and I was in Chicago when he left. So I couldn't know where he stopped. I talked to Mr. Shuttleworth and he told me that I could terminate the visits anytime I

wanted too. So you know the rest, I told them I didn't want them to call me from my work any more. I hated to be so rude. But I believe by doing it, it is the only reason I am here to write you this letter. One time I believe I would have lost my life if it had not been for the timely arrival of the plumber, a Mr. Klinesmidt. I was fighting two men and had just been knocked down and almost out out when Mr. Klinesmidt came down in the kitchen basement. The fight stopped and I even had to go to the hospital to have some stitches taken in my jaw. I lied to the Dr. I told him I had hit myself with the lever on the cutting paper press in the print shop where I was working at that time. Mr. Klinesmidt just thought it was a scuffle. As the fight broke up as soon as he came in sight. But he would verify this if asked. I have taken a lot of abuse from inmates to keep my conduct record in as good shape as it is. But I have tried to stay clear of trouble by not having any more social contacts with prisoners than are absolutely necessary. For I don't want to see them outside as my life from here on will not need their kind of friendship. As you well know I had made an effort to get away from these fellows I was with, long before I was caught. And I believe I would have been successful if I had of had a woman that wanted a home and children. But Mona Murry didn't want anything but the kind of life she had led up to that time. She may have changed after leaving the State prison at Jefferson City, Mo. I don't know. I have never heard from her and don't want to. She served her purpose with me while we were both being hunted. But if I had of settled down with a woman when I was wanted by you I could have never had a moments peace of mind. And the love I have for my relatives would have gotten me caught. For as long as I live I will keep in contact with them. I couldn't bring myself to marrying some innocent girl, which I could have done with ease, because I didn't want to drag her down with me when I was caught. Which I knew was inevitable. About my escape from Mr. Walter Traynor and Mr. Staiback, I believe were their names I didn't have no idea of escaping. I thought then the way I was being handled that I was being taken some place to be done away with. I knew I wasn't wanted in Chicago, and that is where we were supposed to be going. I thought the forced landing and the subsequent trip into town where part of the plan. I thoroughly believed after committing the act that let me escape that I would be shot by either the men who had been with me or other agents that I suspected where in that building. But being as I thought I was going to be done away with anyway I might as well get it over with. But by me doing that it taught me many things. Such as the end of life is unpredictable. And life even in prison can be pleasant if one can obtain peace of mind. This is mans greatest asset in this old troubled world. For with peace of mind the days pass one by one and you think of the past as little as possible. Just live each twenty four hours and try to think good thoughts and you will find there is some good in almost everyone. No man is perfect. Christ could not even make the people believe he was without sin. I may be making this letter too long. As I know you are a busy man. But a times you are in need of help from other people too. So I will try to finish on this page. I was going to wait to write this letter until I had my detainer lifted which I firmly believe I will have in the near future. But from the news papers I have learned a man can be paroled altho he is wanted by another state. As for instance, Mr. William Dudley Felley was paroled from Terre Haute Indiana, Federal Prison and he was wanted in North Carolina. So I thought if my case merited consideration that I might be given the same chance. I don't know how long I would be in the Okla. State prison if I was returned there. But at least I would have a chance some day to clear myself of that charge of which I am not guilty. I also have the word of the parole board in Okla. that they would be glad to submit my case for a hearing in the event I was paroled from here. And due to the fact that I have a parole advisor who is a county commissioner in the town where my father and mother live and who has promised to furnish me with work if I am paroled. As I

would be under the strict supervision of the Federal parole board. I believe if you will look into my record and the recommendations of held I have already received and my progress report from this prison, I believe you will think I have fulfilled my promise to Mr. Farland and to your demands through him to me. I haven't no friends to turn to. As I have never been out long enough and have not lived the proper life to make them. It is men like you and the prison officials who I have met that I most depend on. I have always made "what I consider as a friend" with the official. So if you can see your way clear in helping me at this time. I will never given you cause to regret. I will close this letter with a verse that I intend to live up to. My creed.

To live as gently as I can.  
To be, no matter where, A man;  
To take what comes of good or ill,  
And cling to faith and honor still;  
To do my best and let that stand,  
The record of my brain and hand;  
And then, should failure come to me,  
Still hope and work for victory.

P.S. I go before the Federal parole board in April, 1950.

Respectfully yours,

Volney Davis 47101

SAC, Kansas City

March 9, 1950

Director, FBI

WINNEY DAVIS, ET AL  
EDWARD G. BREWER - VICTIM  
KIDNAPING

RECORDED - 27

7-576-15297

There is enclosed a copy of a letter postmarked February 22, 1950 from Winney Davis, FBI #440441, an inmate at Leavenworth Penitentiary, who was sentenced to life imprisonment October 23, 1935 for conspiring to transport a kidnaped person in interstate commerce.

The Bureau does not desire to acknowledge this letter by mail and it has referred a copy of it to the Parole Executive, U. S. Board of Parole, Washington, D. C.

You should have an agent of your office contact Davis, acknowledge the receipt of this letter and advise him that his letter has been referred to the Parole Executive of the U. S. Board of Parole, who has jurisdiction over parole matters.

This matter should be handled promptly and the Bureau advised.

Enclosure

cc: Cincinnati

JTH:mm

Miss Zora Woody, U. S. Board of Parole advised that Davis is eligible for parole June 6, 1950 but only if he makes a formal application.

RECEIVED-WVIF 1007

RECEIVED-WVIF 1007

MAR 10 3 12 PM '50

MAILED 17  
MAR 10 1950  
COMM - FBI

56 MAR 24 1950

*Don Rye*  
*mm*

Mr. Walter H. [redacted], Parole Executive  
U. S. Board of Parole

March 9, 1950

Director, FBI

VOLNEY DAVIS, et al  
EDWARD G. BREMER - VICTIM  
KIDNAPING

There is enclosed herewith for your information a copy of a letter postmarked February 22, 1950 from Volney Davis, an inmate of Leavenworth Penitentiary, number 47101.

As you will recall Davis was a member of the notorious Barker-Karpis gang and is presently serving a life sentence for participation in the daring kidnaping of Edward George Bremer in 1934.

Davis is being advised of this reference to you.

Enclosure

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

7-576-15165

JTH:MW

58 MAR 29 1950

RECORDED - 49

MAILED 17  
MAR 10 1950  
COMM - FBI

MAR 14 1950

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI  
 FROM : SAC, Kansas City  
 SUBJECT: VOLNEY DAVIS, ET AL  
 EDWARD G. OBREMER - VICTIM  
 KIDNAPING

DATE: March 24, 1950

Rebulet to Kansas City 3-9-50.

On 3-17-50 VOLNEY DAVIS, #47101, incarcerated at the U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, was contacted by an agent of this office. The receipt of the letter postmarked February 22, 1950 from DAVIS to Mr. J. EDGAR HOOVER was acknowledged, and DAVIS was advised that his letter had been referred to the Parole Executive of the U. S. Board of Parole who has jurisdiction over parole matters.

No further action is being taken.

WMH:MJ  
7-37A & DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
E & I  
REC'D68 APR 6 1950  
RECEIVED

RECORDED - 38

EX-34

12-576-1529  
MAR 27 1950

12

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI  
FROM : SAC, Minneapolis  
SUBJECT: BREKID  
(Bureau file 7-576)

DATE: May 15, 1950

ReBumemo 5/10/50.

You are advised there have been no new developments in this matter since my memo to you of April 7, 1950.

For your information, I was today advised by Mrs. LUNDGREN of the Minnesota State Pardon Board, St. Paul, Minnesota, that the matter of the application of LEONARD HANKINS for parole was denied by the Board at the April, 1950 hearing.

MBR:RS  
7-30

RECORDED - 101

INDEXED - 101

17-576-1238  
MAY 17 1950  
37  
R.D.

RECEIVED DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
MAY 18 3 25 PM '50

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : L. B. NICHOLS  
 FROM : M. A. JONES  
 SUBJECT: LEONARD HANKINS  
 UNFAVORABLE PUBLICITY  
 INFORMATION CONCERNING

DATE: May 9, 1950

Mr. Tolson  
 Mr. E. A. Tamm  
 Mr. Clegg  
 Mr. Glavin  
 Mr. Ladd  
 Mr. Nichols  
 Mr. Rosen  
 Mr. Tracy  
 Mr. Egan  
 Mr. Gurnea  
 Mr. Harbo  
 Mr. Mohr  
 Mr. Pennington  
 Mr. Quinn Tamm  
 Tele. Room  
 Mr. Nease  
 Miss Holmes  
 Miss Gandy

I. PURPOSE

Summarizing situation which developed adverse publicity for Bureau by Hankins' attempts to secure a pardon.

II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Leonard Hankins is an inmate of the Minnesota State Prison, Stillwater, Minnesota, serving life sentence on conviction first degree murder in connection with shooting of two police officers during the robbery of the Third Northwestern National Bank, Minneapolis in 1932.

Hankins contends he was convicted on circumstantial evidence and is innocent. He further contends that a signed statement given to the FBI in 1935 by Jess Doyle, participant in the robbery, would exonerate him. (7-576-15260)

During a period from 1941 to 1948 Hankins was a patient at the State Hospital (for insane), at St. Peter, Minnesota. He was returned to State Prison in the fall of 1948. (7-576-15260, 15290)

Hankins also claimed that Warden Leo Utecht of the State Prison has taken a personal interest in preventing him from receiving a pardon for fear that Hankins might expose malpractices on the part of Utecht in the administration of the prison. Information regarding Utecht as furnished by Hankins was forwarded to the Attorney General of the United States by memos October 4, 1944 and July 11, 1949, under the caption "Unknown Subject; Leonard Hankins - Informant, Civil Rights and Domestic Violence."

III. JESS DOYLE'S SIGNED STATEMENT

Included in a signed statement made February 15, 1935, to Special Agents of the Bureau, Jess Doyle described in detail the robbery of the Northwestern Bank of Minneapolis in which he named the participants as Fred Barker, Doc Barker, Larry De Vol, Bill Weaver, Alvin Karpis, Vern Miller, and himself. It is noted

GJN:bk:js

RECORDED - 51

MAY 17 1950

3

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

May 9, 1950

he made no mention of Hankins. In addition to the Northwestern Bank robbery Doyle's statement covered several other robberies which have no relation to the instant matter. (7-576-4653)

Alvin Karpis also advised Bureau Agents Hankins was entirely innocent of the crime for which he had been convicted. Karpis explained he knew that Larry De Vol and Jess Doyle had made complete confessions concerning the crime and had exonerated Hankins. (44-1103-1)

IV. STATE AUTHORITIES REQUEST FOR DOYLE'S STATEMENT

On June 10, 1935, Harry H. Peterson, Attorney General of Minnesota, telegraphically requested the Director to make available a copy of Doyle's statement for study by members of the State Pardon Board who had Hankins' case under consideration. Mr. Peterson requested that authorization be given United States District Attorney Sullivan to release the statement to the Board.

By letter dated June 18, 1935, the Director advised Mr. Peterson that as a result of jurisdictional limitation, the FBI had no authority to make available the results of its investigations except to the appropriate United States Attorneys for their use in prosecuting violations of Federal laws, that any disposition to be made of the statement was a matter of determination by the United States Attorney. Mr. Peterson was further advised the United States Attorney at St. Paul, would be contacted by the Special Agent in Charge of our St. Paul Office, and would be advised that the Bureau could not recommend or disapprove a transmittal of the statement and that the matter would have to be determined by him. (7-576-6447)

By letter to the Director dated June 11, 1935, (91-157-46), SAC Andersen, at St. Paul, advised he had discussed Peterson's request with U.S. Attorney Sullivan along the lines suggested and Sullivan explained that the reason he had not given Doyle's statement to Peterson in the first place was because he didn't want to do anything which might jeopardize any pending investigation being made by the Bureau.

In a memorandum for the Director dated February 12, 1937, prepared by P. E. Foxworth, Re: "Leonard Hankins" (91-569-4), it was set out that the Bureau files contain a copy of a letter dated June 4, 1935 addressed to Ed. J. Goff, County Attorney of Hennepin County, Minnesota, by U.S. Attorney Sullivan in which he furnished Mr. Goff complete information concerning statements obtained from Jess Doyle regarding the robbery of the Third Northwestern National Bank. The copy of this letter had been furnished to the Bureau by Mr. Joseph B. Keenan, the Assistant to the Attorney General.

May 9, 1950

This memorandum further reflects that under date of June 10, 1935, a memorandum was addressed to Mr. Keenan by the Bureau concerning whether Doyle's statement should be turned over to the State authorities. It was stated in this memorandum that disposition of the statement was not a matter to be determined by the Bureau, but however, if Doyle's statement was turned over to State authorities and if proper subpoenas were issued for Special Agents of the Bureau competent to testify as to the obtaining of the statement, appropriate arrangements would be made to have the Bureau Agents respond to State subpoenas issued for them.

By letter dated February 3, 1937 (91-567-3) Eugene A. Rerat, attorney for Hankins at Minneapolis, requested the Director to make available to William Erwin, Attorney General of Minnesota, and W. J. Lamson, Secretary of the Pardon Board, information contained in the Bureau's files relating to Hankins.

In the Director's letter of reply to Mr. Rerat, dated February 15, 1937 (91-569-4) it was pointed out to him that the records of the FBI disclosed that U.S. Attorney Sullivan had made available, on June 4, 1935, to Mr. Ed. J. Goff, information contained in Doyle's statement concerning participants in the Third Northwestern National Bank robbery. The Director further advised Mr. Rerat that instructions were being issued to SAC Stein, at St. Paul to furnish Mr. Erwin and Lamson, such information as was contained in the Bureau files concerning the robbery should Mr. Erwin or Lamson request him for this information.

These instructions were sent to the SAC, St. Paul, along with copies of Rerat's letter and the Director's reply, by letter dated February 15, 1937. (91-569-4)

By letter dated February 23, 1937 (91-569-5) Mr. Rerat acknowledged the Director's letter and stated that he was communicating with Erwin and Lamson and asking them to request the information from SAC Stein. He expressed his appreciation for the Director's cooperation in this matter.

The SAC St. Paul advised the Bureau on July 23, 1936, that Alvin Karpis had authorized his attorney to make a statement to the Associated Press representative at St. Paul, absolving Leonard Hankins in the robbery. (91-569-2)

#### V. NEWSPAPER PUBLICITY IN 1949

As reflected in an article appearing in the April 12, 1949, issue of the "St. Paul Dispatch", John J. Kelley, Minneapolis attorney in a State Pardon Board hearing, pointed out to the Board that a statement made by Jess Doyle to the FBI absolved Hankins of a part in the robbery. The article further states that the FBI had released excerpts from the statement

Memo to Mr. Nichols from Mr. Jones

May 9, 1950

to the State Pardon Board more than ten years previous when the State Crime Bureau was ordered to make an investigation of the case.

An article appearing in the April 7, 1949, issue of the "St. Paul Dispatch" reflected that while Harold Stassen was Governor, the Pardon Board decided to release Hankins to Kentucky authorities. He was wanted in Kentucky on a robbery charge. While the Board was considering his case Hankins was transferred to the St. Peter Hospital and Kentucky refused to accept him because he was believed to be insane. Later considered sane, Hankins was returned to Stillwater. At the time this article was written Hankins was making his tenth appeal for freedom.

VI. RECENT NEWSPAPER PUBLICITY

An article appearing in the April 7, 1950, issue of the "Minneapolis Moring Tribune" stated that the FBI refused to turn over to the State Attorney General's Office, at Minneapolis, Doyle's statement in connection with Hankins' appeal for clemency in 1935. The article pointed out that in the Director's reply to the request, he explained the jurisdiction of the FBI is "solely investigative" and the FBI had no power to turn over the statements, that such information is transmitted to United States District Attorney for his use in prosecutions of violations of Federal laws.

According to this article, when a request for the statement was made to the United States Attorney, he advised the statement was not the property of his office but was the property of the Division of Investigation, Department of Justice.

It is to be noted, however, that quotations from the portion of Doyle's statement which deal with the Northwestern Bank robbery were set out at some length in this article. The story was written by Jack Mackay, Associated Press staff writer. The same story was also printed in the April 7, 1950 issue of the "St. Paul Pioneer Press."

The "Minneapolis Star" on the same date carried a story with the caption "Innocent Man' To Make 11th Plea For Freedom" in which it was stated a "written confession" filed with the FBI by Jess Doyle described Hankins as "innocent" in the Northwestern Bank affray. This article also stated that the FBI "today" repeated its refusal to release the file since such records are maintained for "solely investigative purposes."

By letter dated April 7, 1950, to the Director for the attention of Assistant Director L. B. Nichols in the case captioned "Brekid", the SAC Minneapolis, stated that shortly after publication of the Mackay story he received a telephone call from Larry Fitzmaurice of the "Minneapolis Star" and Reporter

May 9, 1950

Hathaway, of the "United Press," inquired about the story. They were advised that no information had been furnished Mackay.

In reply to further inquiries by Fitzmaurice regarding the location of the files and why Doyle's statement was not turned over to the State Attorney General, he was advised that only the Attorney General of the United States or the United States Attorney had authority to make the statement available, that the FBI's function was purely investigative.

The "St. Paul Dispatch" in its April 7, 1950 issue carried an editorial titled "Kansas City Scandal" inspired by the Binaggio murder which it said brought to the surface two evils in American life which need to be stamped out--corrupt bossridden politics, and the new giant underworld which runs the gambling syndicates.

The editorial commented it was the conclusion at the recent Washington Crime Conference that there should be closer integration of local law enforcement with such Federal agencies as the FBI. The vast syndicates are too big and powerful to be broken up by the "individual cities" even when there is the will to do so.

"This is incontrovertible, in view of the reluctance to expand Federal policing into new fields," the editorial stated. "But how does the FBI go about cooperating with city regimes that may be hand-in-glove with the underworld? That difficulty explains the seeming standoffishness of the FBI, as in this new case in Minnesota where the FBI evidently has had information for many years tending to establish the innocence of a man convicted of bank robbery.

"Yet, there doubtless are means of bringing about a closer integration of state, local and Federal policing. If not, it is only a matter of time before we are forced to add interstate gambling to kidnapping, bank robbery, and other new Federal crimes."

An article appearing in the April 10, 1950, issue of the "St. Paul Dispatch" reflects that the State Pardon Board had decided that date to withhold judgment and to discuss Hankins' case at another time. Willis Donley, one of the three attorneys who presented the case, told the Board that Alvin Karpis told him at Alcatraz Prison that Hankins was not involved in the robbery. Donley also made the statement that Jess Doyle had told the FBI that Hankins, whom he doesn't know, did not take part in the robbery.

VII. RECOMMENDATION

It is clear from a review of Bureau files that information

Memo to Mr. Nichols from Mr. Jones

May 9, 1950

concerning Doyle's statement was made available to Minnesota State authorities in June 1935. Further evidence of this fact is indicated in the recent newspaper article by Jack MacKay in which he carried quotations from Doyle's statement. It would appear that newspaper criticism of the Bureau alleging the Director declined to make Doyle's statement available to State authorities, stems from the fact the news reporters did not take the trouble to determine whether or not the information was actually made available.

Should this question arise at any future date, the SAC, at Minneapolis should answer inquiries that the U.S. Attorney at St. Paul made the information concerning Doyle's statement available to Ed. J. Goff, County Attorney, Hennepin County, Minnesota on June 4, 1935. And also that in February 1937, the Director authorized the St. Paul office to make available to the State Attorney General and Secretary of the State Pardon Board, all information contained in the office files concerning the participants in the Third Northwestern National Bank robbery if they desired to request this information. This information and the instructions should appear in the Minneapolis Office file as set out in the forementioned correspondence.

It is not recommended at this time that the newspaper representatives be recontacted concerning this matter. It is suggested, however, that facts be called to the attention of the SAC at Minneapolis so that he will be in position to correct the newspapermen in the event of further inquiries by them. A suggested letter to the SAC at Minneapolis is attached.

✓

SAC, Minneapolis

May 10 1950

Director, FBI

BREKID

(Your File 7-30)

RECORDED - 51

Reurlet April 7, 1950 in above-captioned case concerning inquiries by newspaper representatives concerning reasons why in 1935 the Bureau declined to turn over to State Attorney General Peterson a copy of a statement obtained by Bureau Agents from Jess Boyle which statement Leonard Hankins claims would exonerate him in the robbery for which he was convicted.

The Bureau files clearly indicate that U.S. Attorney Sullivan, at St. Paul, made available to Ed. J. Goff, County Attorney of Hennepin County, Minnesota, by letter dated June 4, 1935, complete information concerning this statement. Also, in February, 1937 in reply to a request by Eugene A. Rerat, of Minneapolis, attorney for Hankins, the Bureau offered to make available to William Erwin, Attorney General of Minnesota, and W. J. Lamson, Secretary of the Pardon Board, information concerning participants in the Third Northwestern National Bank robbery, if they should request it.

These instructions as well as copies of Mr. Rerat's request and the Bureau's reply, were forwarded to the St. Paul office by letter dated February 15, 1937.

It is not suggested that the newspapers be re-contacted in regard to this matter at the present time, but you are instructed to point these facts out to them in the event further inquiries are made. It is requested that you closely follow this matter and keep the Bureau advised immediately of any new developments.

BJM:js

56 PM '50

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MAY 11 1950  
COMM - FBI

91-567-13  
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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI  
 FROM : SAC, Minneapolis

DATE: April 7, 1950

ATTENTION: Assistant Director L. B. NICHOLS

SUBJECT: BREKID  
 (Bureau File #7-576)

Re my telephone conversation with Mr. NICHOLS had today.

Attached hereto is a news item appearing in the "Minneapolis Morning Tribune" on April 7, 1950, which quotes the Bureau as refusing to turn over to the Attorney General's Office of Minnesota certain statements in the matter of application for clemency of LEONARD HANKINS, presently serving a life sentence at Stillwater, Minnesota for bank robbery in 1932. From the newspaper article it would appear that this request of the Attorney General of Minnesota was made of the Bureau in 1935.

It is noted that this story was written by JACK MACKAY of St. Paul, Associated Press Staff Writer. Shortly following the publication of this story I received telephone calls from LARRY FITZMAURICE of the "Minneapolis Star" and Reporter HATHAWAY of the United Press wanting to know about this story. I informed them I had not given the story to MACKAY and had made no statement to anyone in regard to the matter. FITZMAURICE wanted to know where the files in this case are located and I, of course, told him they are located here at Minneapolis in our office and at the Seat of Government in Washington. He wanted to know how it happened that the Director of this Bureau in 1935 when the State Attorney General asked for a copy of DOYLE's confession did not turn it over to the State Attorney General's Office. I told him the Bureau had no power to turn this statement of DOYLE over to the State Attorney General's Office or any other agency in the absence of instructions from the Attorney General of the United States or the United States Attorney. I pointed out to FITZMAURICE that our jurisdiction is purely investigative, and we had no power to release any statements obtained by us during investigations to outside agencies.

In this connection your attention is invited to St. Paul memorandum to the Bureau dated June 15, 1949, entitled, "BREKID."

109  
 MBR:EB

7-30

Enclosure

RECORDED - 109

INDEXED - 109

MAY 17 1950

7-576-15302

MAY 17 1950

# STATE LIFER IS TERMED INNOCENT

**FBI Told Prisoner  
Had No Part in  
1932 Bank Holdup**

By JACK MACKAY  
Associated Press Staff Writer

A Stillwater life prisoner, Leonard Hankins of Dawson Springs, Ky., is labeled "an innocent man" by a self-confessed gangster who bared the intimate details of a sensational bank holdup in 1932 when two Minneapolis policemen were machinegunned to death, the Associated Press learned Thursday night.

"The inside story," giving names of seven mobsters and their movements before and after the holdup of the Third Northwestern National bank, is revealed in a written confession given to the federal bureau of investigation in 1936 by Jess Doyle, arrested for a Nebraska bank robbery.



Hankins  
Luther W. Youngdahl's office. Since his conviction in Minneapolis in 1933, Hankins has steadfastly maintained his innocence.

## NAMES ACCOMPLICES

Doyle, according to his confession, which the FBI has refused to turn over to state agencies, admitted that he was wearing a chauffeur's cap, and named as his accomplices Fred Barker, Arthur "Doc" Barker, Alvin Karpis, Larry De Vol, William "Bill" Weaver and Verne Miller.

Weaver and Karpis are serving life terms in Alcatraz prison for the \$200,000 kidnapping of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker.

Doyle was tried for the Bremer abduction, but the government dismissed its case against him after completion of testimony and took him to Nebraska to serve a term.

The others named by Doyle are dead.

De Vol was arrested shortly after the holdup and pleaded guilty as the machine-gunner who killed Patrolmen Ira L. Evans and Leo Gorski. He was given a life term in Stillwater prison.

## ADJUDGED INSANE

Later he was transferred to St. Peter State hospital for the criminally insane. He escaped from there and was killed in a gun fight in the south.

Fred Barker, Doc Barker, Alvin Karpis and I were living in either the Twin Oaks or Three Oaks apartment in St. Paul at the time of the Minneapolis holdup," Doyle's confession reads.

"We had a meeting place in a garage in Minneapolis shortly before the robbery.

"I drove the other six men to the bank in a Lincoln sedan. I was wearing a chauffeur's cap at this time. All of the boys entered the bank and I drove the car a couple of hundred feet down the street.

"Shortly afterward, I observed Larry De Vol come out of the bank to act as a lookout.

"A few minutes later the others emerged from the bank and simultaneously a squad car pulled up in front of Larry. He fired at the police officers in this car with a machine gun and killed two of them.

## MOTORIST KILLED

"I subsequently heard, through conversations with Fred and Doc, that when the boys were changing cars in St. Paul, some person in an automobile drove past them and tried to see their license and one of the boys shot him in the head." (A St. Paul motorist was killed in Como park by the gangsters.)

While in prison, De Vol was asked in the presence of Hankins, whether Hankins had any part in the holdup. De Vol said he did not know him, and that Hankins was not one of his accomplices.

In 1935, when Harry H. Peterson was attorney general, he

telegraphed J. Edgar Hoover requesting a copy of Doyle's confession after explaining he believed it "would exonerate Leonard Hankins."

Hoover replied that the jurisdiction of the FBI is "solely investigative" and that the bureau had no power to turn over the statements.

He added that all such information is transmitted to the United States district attorney for his use in prosecuting violations of federal laws.

## WANTED IN KENTUCKY

Peterson then wrote the United States attorney and made the request, but he was advised that

"the statement (confession) is not the property of this office, but the property of the division of investigation, department of justice."

If Hankins should be freed, however, he must be returned to Paducah, Ky., where he is wanted for a \$13 holdup. While awaiting trial, he escaped. He indicated he would return voluntarily, if freed.

MINNEAPOLIS MORNING TRIBUNE  
Minneapolis, Minnesota  
April 7, 1950

7-576-15302  
ENCLOSURE

*attached in summary memo*

August 29, 1950

*File*

Miss Virginia Deacon  
1805 Holly Street  
Nashville, Tennessee

G. I. R. - 1

Dear Miss Deacon:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter postmarked August 14, 1950 at Nashville, Tennessee, wherein you make claim to part of the reward for information resulting in the apprehension of Alvin Karpis.

Please be advised that the files of this Bureau fail to reflect the receipt of any information from you in this matter and that further, the apprehension of Alvin Karpis was the result of investigation conducted by Special Agents of this Bureau. In view of this, favorable consideration cannot be given to your claim.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

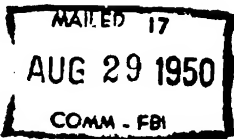
RECORDED - 36

INDEXED - 36

7-576 - 15303  
RJG:RGB

(7-576-11060, 11391)

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
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SEP 16 1950

*RJG*  
*Sh* *Ry*

C  
O  
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Dear Sir:

I have the picture of this man. I was the one who identified him. But some private investigators were prowling around my room & they are aft it. I don't know if they got it or not. I think I am intiled to part of it anyway. These men kept me awake 8 or 9 mo. This was so I wouldn't notify the police. They still wouldn't give me anything. The way it was Alvin Karpis was driving a bus. He didn't have on a uniform & he was scared to death. I told the investigators who he was they promised me part of the reward, but I'm sure they were telling me a lie. I am the one that identified Mr. Harry Savosh who was going by the name Robert Belser in Nashville. I told where he worked & where he was working. He was 25 when this picture was taken I had someone else stole it, he is a private investigator. That who took it away from me. His name is Morris Covington. His office is in the Warner Bldg. 5th floor. This fellow Alvin Karpis was going by another name, Jack Jones. This fellow told me he would divide the reward but he has already bragged about what I told him & he wasn't going to give me any of the reward. Mr. Cooke in Chicago sent me these pictures. I had studied them. I doubt if they knew what the r real names were. This Belser or Sarvosh was 34 yrs old it has been 16 yrs. I'm the one who identified him. This private inv - kept me awake to keep me from being able to notify the police. But I do think part of these rewards are mine.

Yours truly

1a/ Virginia Deason

N.R. HARRY SAVOSH  
Harry SARVOSH  
" " SAVOSK  
" SARVOSK

N.R. Robert Belser N.R.

Morris Covington

91-5-1602

26-57062-1

Possible ident

No value

Virginia Deason N.R.

" Deason

4-30-61, 67 Possible ident - No value

31-45164-27 III

Dear Sir. - File  
 I have the picture  
 of the man. I was  
 the one who identified  
 him. But some private  
 investigators were  
 prowling around my room  
 & they got it. I don't  
 know if they got the rat.  
 I think I am entitled to  
 part of it. I am a  
 member of the  
 8-9-20. This was the  
 I wouldn't rat on the  
 police, they still wouldn't  
 give me anything.  
 To the  
 8-9-20

the way it was almost  
~~that~~ Karpis was driving  
a truck. He didn't have on  
a uniform & he was scared  
to death & told the in-  
vestigative who he was  
they promised me part of  
the reward. But I'm sure  
they were telling me a  
lie. I am the one that  
identified Mr. Harry Smith  
- who was going by the  
name Robert Pelave  
in Nashville. I told  
where he worked &  
where he was working.  
He was 25 when this picture  
was taken I had someone

stole it, he is a private  
investigator. That who  
took it away from me the  
name is. Morris Conington  
His office is in the  
Wabner Bldg, 5th floor.  
This fellow always Karpis  
was going by another name,  
Jack Jansky. This fellow told  
me he would divide the reward  
but he has already bragged  
about what I told him & he  
wasn't going to give me any  
of the reward. Mr. Cooke  
in Chicago sent me these  
pictures and had studied  
them. I doubt if they knew  
what their real names  
were. This Belser are Sawash  
was 34 yrs old it has been

16 yrs. I'm the one who  
identified him. I hear prison  
in - kept me awake to keep  
me from being able to notify  
the police. But I do think part  
of these rewards are mine.

Yours truly

Virginia Mason

1.—L. Thumb 13	2.—R. Index Finger 8	3.—R. Middle Finger 8	4.—R. Ring Finger 4	5.—R. Little Finger 5
6.—Left Thumb 10	7.—Left Index Finger 6	8.—L. Middle Finger 10	9.—L. Ring Finger 9	10.—L. Little Finger 6



### \$5000.00 REWARD

Wanted ALVIN KARPIS. On April 22, 1936, Homer S. Cummings, Attorney General of the United States under the authority vested in him by an Act of Congress, approved June 6, 1934, offered a reward of \$5,000.00 for information furnished to a representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, which results in the apprehension of Alvin Karpis.

Description: Age, appears to be 25 or 26 years; height, 5 feet 9 3/4 inches; weight, 135 pounds; build, slender; hair, brown; eyes, blue-grey; complexion, fair; marks: 1 inch cut scar lower knuckle left index finger.

- 1920 Sunnyside Avenue, CHICAGO 40, ILLINOIS

7-576-15383



7-576-15303

cc-Mr. Rosen; Mr. H. Griffith

Assistant Attorney General James M. McInerney

September 7, 1950

Director, FBI

CHRIST NELSON  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

BRKID

Reference is made to the letter of Christ Nelson dated August 28, 1950, addressed to the Attorney General which was later referred to this Bureau.

This is to advise that our files reflect that Nelson has written to this Bureau on previous occasions in a rather incoherent manner relative to the William A. Hamm kidnaping case. There is nothing in the files, however, to indicate that Nelson ever gave any information of value in this case.

It is also noted that Nelson refers in his letter to information allegedly given to this Bureau relative to the robbery of Brink's, Incorporated, in Boston, Massachusetts. Our files fail to reflect that this individual ever gave any information of value in this case either.

For your information, the Duluth, Minnesota Police Department in April of 1941 advised our resident agent in that city that Nelson had given to that agency numerous non-specific complaints over a period of the previous five or six years and that, further, Nelson was at one time a patient in the Moose Lake Hospital for psychopathic patients.

In view of the above, this Bureau contemplates no action in this matter. I am, therefore, returning herewith Nelson's letter.

Enclosure

62-61513  
cc-7-576  
cc-91-5535

NOTE: See 62-61513, serial 2, and 7-576, Section 329, Serial 15259.

RJG:scb

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7-576-V  
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83 SEP 16 1950

INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

copy

COPY

Duluth, Minnesota  
August 26th, 1950

Hon. H. Mc Grath  
U.S. Attorney General  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Honorable McGrath:

Writing your office regarding Mr. Hamm's abduction which took place in 1932, in which I became interested and began giving information to the F.B.I. bureaus and also to police bureaus which I understand led Mr. Hamm on the route to the right place where he was held during his abduction.

A reward of \$10,000 dollars was offered and posted at that time.

It must be worth something yet to Mr. Hamm's satisfaction to be able to discover the right place and the right ones which were conducting the abduction, and which corresponds exactly with the news given at that time. Therefore, I plead and hope that the Hon. attorney general will pay attention to this plea and take the matter up through proper channels, demanding proof for the actual facts, and also that I be given an appreciation for the same whatever be granted the same amount which was offered in 1932 or less.

I wish also to mention one more instance in which I was giving information on the million and half robbery at the Brink's in Boston, Mass. this year. Nevertheless after my information was given it was announced over the radio that some of the gang was captured, but did not say who they were or where from. My information was given to the F.B.I. office in this city and was forwarded to the Brink's in Boston. Regarding my information please demand the same in this case also.

Hoping the attorney general will be paying attention to the matter as soon as possible without any further action be necessary. This will surely be very much appreciated.

Respectfully yours,

s/ Chrest Nelson

Chrest Nelson  
318 North 3rd Ave. West-Duluth, Minn.

CN/md  
Encl.

Former address-216 2nd Ave. East-Duluth, Minn.

P.S. I am enclosing stamps for surety mail.

1076 ✓

November 24, 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON

On November 16 I saw Father Clark, the Chaplain of Alcatraz, and Father Hastings, the Assistant Chaplain. During the course of our conversation Father Clark brought up the case of Al Karpis and stated that he was interested in Karpis and the possibility of his being placed upon parole after he has served fifteen years which time will expire sometime this coming year. He stated he had talked to Karpis and Karpis had asked him, Father Clark, when he was coming to Washington to find out whether I would oppose the parole. I told Father Clark that my attitude was entirely neutral; that certainly I would not recommend his parole; and that I would not oppose it. Father Clark then brought up the case of John Paul Chase. I told Father Clark that in Chase's case I had an entirely different attitude because Chase had engaged in gun battle resulting in the death of one of our Agents and Karpis had never actually been in gun battle against an Agent of this Bureau.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

J.E.H.

151

2

RECORDED - 80

17-576-15304

NOV 27 1950

37

JEH:EH

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

SENT FROM D. O.  
TIME 4:33 pm  
DATE 11-24-50  
BY WLS

52 NOV 30 1950

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Nichols

FROM : F. C. Holloman

SUBJECT:

DATE: December 5, 1950

Tolson ☒

Ladd ☒

Clegg ☒

Glavin ☒

Nichols ☒

Rosen ☒

Tracy ☒

Harbo ☒

Belmont ☒

Mohr ☒

Tele. Room ☒

Nease ☒

Gandy ☒

Last evening the writer saw the television program of Jerry Mahoney, the ventriloquist, on his program called "What's my name." Jerry Mahoney, on this program, puts on several short skits and then asks each contestant what is the name of the principal actor that is being portrayed.

Last night Jerry Mahoney put on a skit in which he portrayed Alvin Karpis in New Orleans. The scene was in Alvin Karpis' apartment and immediately prior to his apprehension by the Bureau; it also showed his apprehension by the Director personally. The actor portrayed the part of the Director and showed the Director walking into the room and placing Karpis under arrest. It showed the Director unarmed but with Karpis with a gun and the Director talked Karpis into giving him the gun and submitting to arrest.

After the contestant guessed the name of Alvin Karpis Jerry Mahoney stated that the Director had single handedly arrested Alvin Karpis.

The skit was very well put on considering Jerry Mahoney's acting ability and did not reflect adversely toward the Bureau or the Director.

FCH:mcq

*certified according to fact.*

RECORDED - 70 | 7-576-15305  
INDEXED - 70 | DEC 7 1950

EX-64

RECORDED

DEC 9 1950

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 4/24/51

FROM : SAC OMAHA

SUBJECT: ALVIN KARPIS; was; DR. JOSEPH P. MORAN,  
was, FUGITIVE I.O. 1232, ET AL  
EDWARD GEORGE BREMER, VICTIM  
KIDNAPING; HARBORING  
(BREKID)

GUY E. ORCUTT, operator of the Gridiron Club, 134 North 14th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska, a book making parlor, advised SA S. DONALD DURFEE of this office that HARRY SAWYER, convicted in captioned case, is no longer confined in Alcatraz but is confined in the U.S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, where he is working in the butcher shop.

ORCUTT states he has been reliably informed that SAWYER is to be paroled from this institution. While ORCUTT did not disclose where he received this information, it was indicated that it came from one of SAWYER'S brothers in Lincoln, Nebraska. ORCUTT relates that his source of information revealed it would cost practically nothing except a trip to Washington, D.C. ORCUTT states he understands there is no pay off involved in getting SAWYER'S parole.

E. RAY SANDLOVICH and SAMUEL SANDLOVICH, operators of the Nebraska Motor Company, Lincoln, Nebraska, who are considered quite wealthy, are brothers of HARRY SAWYER and it is believed that one of the brothers is ORCUTT'S source of information.

ORCUTT'S identity should be kept confidential.

The above is being submitted to the Bureau for whatever action they deem advisable.

SDD:vak

7-4

AM

RECORDED - 106

7-576-15316  
APR 26 1951

EX-24

2-1 KC  
EC 6/8/51  
PWS

RECORDED - 133

7-576-15306

SAC, Kansas City

May 9, 1951

Director, FBI

EX-123

ALVIN KARPIS, was.  
EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM  
KIDNAPING; HARBORING  
(BREKID)

Re Omaha letter April 24, 1951, a copy of which is attached for information of Kansas City.

A check at the U. S. Board of Parole, Washington, D.C., reflects Harry Sawyer, FBI #421335, is presently confined to Leavenworth prison, became eligible for parole in January 1951 and made application for parole but this was denied in February 1951. There is no record of a current application for parole on file. Kansas City should make arrangements to be notified in the event Sawyer should again file an application for parole.

Tolson  
Ladd  
Clegg  
Glavin  
Nichols  
Rosen  
Tracy  
Harbo  
Mohr  
Tele. Room  
Nease  
Gandy

cc: Omaha  
Attachment  
DVS:hbd  
3/30/51

COMM - FBI  
MAY 10 1951  
MAILED 20

RECEIVED READING ROOM  
FBI  
MAY 9 4 51 PM  
U S DEPT OF JUSTICE

Rex  
ay

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI  
 FROM : SAC, KANSAS CITY  
 SUBJECT: ALVIN KARPIS, Was.  
 EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - Victim  
 KIDNAPING; HARBORING  
 (BREKID)  
 (Bufile 62-64258)

DATE: 6/2/51

6-2-51

Enclosed is a newspaper clipping from the Springfield Daily News, Springfield, Missouri of May 25, 1951.

Howell County Attorney J. L. BESS has advised that a communication was received from the Warden at Alcatraz Penitentiary indicating KARPIS would shortly be eligible for parole, having served 15 years of a life term. The Warden suggested that County authorities at West Plains might desire to file murder charges against KARPIS and have processes issued to place a detainer which in itself would tend to discourage parole.

Mr. BESS stated charges had been filed as the article indicated. Mr. BESS stated from his observation of the case and a recent investigation to determine what evidence was available, he was of the opinion that it would be difficult to establish positive identification of KARPIS as the murderer of Sheriff KELLY in 1931. BESS said the witnesses have become scattered, some have died, and their memories have failed to the extent that successful prosecution might be doubtful. He indicated, however, that in the event KARPIS is actually released on parole, he will extradite him to Howell County and conduct a trial with the best evidence available and endeavor to convict KARPIS of the murder of Sheriff KELLY.

It was felt these developments would be of interest to the Bureau.

JAP:mjl  
 7-37

Enclosure

RECORDED - 45

EX. - 52

JUN 5 1951

56 JUN 11 1951

# Howell County Charges Murder By Alvin Karpis

Ma Barker Mobster  
To Face New Count  
If He Is Paroled

Special Dispatch to the News  
WEST PLAINS, May 24—  
Tales of the bloody "Ma"  
Barker gang of the early '30s  
echoed throughout this How-  
ell county seat today follow-  
ing the filing of first degree  
murder charges against kil-  
ler Alvin Karpis.

Karpis, a member of the no-  
torious Barker bunch for sever-  
al years, faces the murder count  
here for the slaying of Sheriff  
C. R. Kelly on December 19,  
1931, if and when he's released  
from Alcatraz prison.

Prosecuting Attorney J. L.  
Bess said a warrant for Karpis'  
arrest was filed here yesterday  
after Sheriff Lester Davis re-  
ceived word from the Alcatraz  
warden that Karpis had served  
15 years of his sentence and  
would be eligible for parole  
soon.

The charge was filed primari-  
ly to block release of the gun-  
man, captured after a wave of  
slayings and kidnappings in the  
mid and southwest.

"I want to do everything possi-  
ble to keep that man in Al-  
catraz," was the way Sheriff  
Kelly's widow, Mrs. Lula Kelly  
Oliver, termed it tonight.

"Or if they do let him out,  
I want him brought back here  
and tried," she added.

## Signs Complaint

Mrs. Oliver signed the mur-  
der complaint against Karpis  
yesterday.

Kelly, 42 at the time, was  
shot down by both Karpis and  
Fred Barker, one of the noto-  
rious Ma's sons.

According to William Graves,  
district circulation supervisor  
for Springfield Newspapers, Inc.,  
and a Daily News and Leader  
reporter at the time of the kill-  
ing, Fred Barker and Karpis had  
driven into the Davidson Motor  
company in West Plains to have  
a tire repaired shortly before the  
slaying.

Kelly entered the garage  
Graves said, walked up to the  
car and said: "Boys, I want to  
look your car over." At that  
time, Graves recalled, Barker  
and Karpis both slipped out of  
the front seat and started shoot-  
ing. Kelly was shot four times,  
once through the heart.

Karpis escaped from the ga-  
rage on foot and Barker left by  
car, Graves added.

The late Dutch James, one of  
the garage owners, grabbed a re-  
peating rifle and fired several  
shots into the auto as Barker  
fled.

## Barker Hides Out

Barker, who was later shot  
down along with his mother by  
the FBI in Florida, managed  
to make his way to the gang's  
hideout near Thayer and Kar-  
pis was believed to have stayed  
in West Plains until night fell  
and then escaped.

A large posse of Howell coun-  
tians raided the hideout near  
Thayer that night, Graves con-  
tinued, but found only a large  
quantity of loot the gang had  
obtained in burglaries in the  
West Plains and Willow Springs  
area.

Barker later was identified as  
one of the gunmen through pic-  
tures obtained by Graves from  
police in Tulsa. Karpis' identi-  
ty was determined through pic-  
tures of his wife, who showed  
up in West Plains several days  
later to visit the killer.

Karpis continued his criminal  
escapades throughout the coun-  
try until 1936 when he was sen-  
tenced to life for the \$100,  
000 kidnaping of William Hamm,  
Jr., member of a St. Paul brew-  
ing family.

CLIPPING FROM THE SPRINGFIELD DAILY NEWS  
SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI  
MAY 25, 1951

7-596-15307

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 23 1951	
FBI - KANSAS	

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: June 15, 1951

FROM : SAC, Kansas City

SUBJECT: ALVIN KARPIS, Was. N/R  
EDWARD GEORGE BREMER -- Victim  
KIDNAPING; HARBORING  
(BREKID)  
(Bufile 62-64258)

Rebulet 5/9/51.

Mr. C. F. ZARTER, Record Clerk, U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, will notify this office in the event HARRY SAWYER files application for parole.

WMH:nom

7-37

Cc: Cincinnati (7-43)

RECORDED - 38

EX-71

JUN 18 1951

66 JUN 20 1951

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. TOLSON  
FROM : L. B. NICHOLS  
SUBJECT:

DATE: June 27, 1951

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor Wohl of the New York Office called and advised Holloman that Norma Abrams of the New York Daily News had called and stated that her paper understands that Alvin Karpis is up for parole and wondered if we could advise her whether or not this is true and also whether or not there are any detainers outstanding against him.

Holloman advised Mr. Wohl that he should inform Miss Abrams that the Bureau had no jurisdiction over parole matters and we could not be of assistance to her in this regard and that we, not being a prosecutive agency could not assist her in the matter of advising whether any detainers are outstanding against him in state courts.

FCH:mb

JUN 7 1956

RECORDED - 114

INDEXED - 114

JUL 19 1951

7-576-15308X

162-43010-464

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 9 1935

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Alden  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Laughlin  
Mr. Mohr  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

WASHINGTON S-18 FROM SAN FRANCISCO 7-2-51 4-04 PM KC

DIRECTOR FBI -----URGENT-----

---ATTENTION ASST. DIRECTOR ROSEN

ALVIN KARPIS, INFO CONCERNING. RE BUREAU TELEPHONE CALL OF INSP  
ALDEN TO SUPERVISOR A. V. TRICHAK TODAY. OFFICIALS ALCATRAZ ADVISED  
KARPIS, NO THREE TWO FIVE, AKA ALVIN KARPAVICZ, STILL CONFINED ALCATRAZ.  
ADVISED BEFORE INMATES CAN BE PAROLED FROM ALCATRAZ SUCH PAROLE HAS TO  
BE AUTHORIZED BY US BOARD OF PAROLE, WASHINGTON, D. C. AND THAT A PAROLE  
FOR KARPIS OR ANY OTHER INMATE DIRECTLY FROM ALCATRAZ NOT PROBABLE. STATE  
INMATES ARE USUALLY TRANSFERRED FROM ALCATRAZ TO SOME OTHER INSTITUTION  
PRIOR TO BEING PAROLED. ADVISE KARPIS ON MAY NINTH LAST ORALLY INDICATED  
HE WAIVED HIS RIGHT TO HEARING FOR PAROLE FOR WHICH HE BECOMES ELIGIBLE  
JULY TWENTYSIXTH NEXT AND INDICATED HE WOULD SIGN WAIVER OF THIS RIGHT

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. LADD  
 FROM : A. ROSEN *NR*  
 SUBJECT: ALVIN KARPIS  
 POSSIBILITY OF PAROLE

DATE: July 3, 1951

Tolson ☒  
 Ladd ☒  
 Clegg ☒  
 Glavin ☒  
 Nichols ☒  
 Rosen ☒  
 Tracy ☒  
 Harbo ☒  
 Belmont ☒  
 Mohr ☒  
 Tele. Room ☒  
 Nease ☒

OBJECT

To advise you that information has been secured from the U. S. Board of Parole and from the prison authorities at Alcatraz Island indicating that there is no present possibility of Karpis being released on parole.

BACKGROUND

You will recall that Norma Abrams of the New York Daily News called the New York Office stating that her paper understood that Karpis was up for parole. This is set forth in the memorandum from Mr. Nichols to Mr. Tolson dated June 27, 1951.

DETAILS

Mr. Walter Ulrich of the U. S. Board of Parole advised that prisoners were not paroled from Alcatraz but were first transferred to another institution and kept there for a time.

He stated that he doubted if the Board would consider parolling Karpis in view of the inconceivable severe criticism that would follow such action.

Mr. Ulrich stated that Karpis' earliest possible parole date was July 26, 1951, but that if a detainer was filed it would not be possible for a man to be paroled.

Supervisor A. V. Trichak, San Francisco Office, advised of information from the officials at Alcatraz Island that Karpis was still confined there; that any parole from Alcatraz was not probable; and that such parole would have to be authorized by the U. S. Board of Parole, Washington, D. C. Further, that inmates are usually transferred from Alcatraz to some other institution prior to being paroled; that Karpis on May 9, 1951, orally indicated that he would waive his right to a hearing for parole for which he becomes eligible July 26, 1951, and indicated that he would sign the waiver of his right at a later date. These officials indicated that there is no indication that Karpis is to be transferred or paroled from Alcatraz.

The Alcatraz Penitentiary records reflect a detainer for a deportation to Canada placed by J. Edgar Hoover, San Francisco, at Alcatraz February 4, 1943 and, further, that the detainer was also filed by the Sheriff's Office of Howell County, Missouri, at Alcatraz charging Karpis with the murder of one Sheriff Kelly in 1931. The correspondence

RECORDED 116 7-576-15310

56 JUL 28 1951

Memorandum for Mr. Ladd

record of Karpis reflects that he has been in correspondence with the Sheriff's Office of Howell County, Missouri, and information was received July 2, 1951 at Alcatraz advising Karpis that the detainer would not be removed in Missouri.

Chicago Ill  
Sept 19-51

Dear Mr Hoover:

I am writing to you about my  
brother Alvin Karpavicz who is in Alcatraz Calif. I am  
sure you will remember the case.

~~Karpavicz, Alvin~~  
~~Karpis, Alvin~~

In July of this year he was  
eligible for parole consideration. of course to be deported  
to Canada. a few months ago he wrote to the family  
for money for a lawyer. It seems like the case in  
West Plains was to be reopened. Senator Langer in  
the mean time told him to Alcatraz and talked to him  
what he saw and heard seem to interest him my brother  
asked me to write him and thank him for his interest. We  
wrote several letters to each other he wanted to know  
all about the family. I explained about the father  
being so old Alvin son is 16 year old. My mother  
up from Kansas 4 years ago the boy was being raised  
or has pushed around and reminded of his father  
every chance people would get. They are staying living on  
the same street in Chicago their

RECORDED 35  
EX-18  
SEP 22 1951

II

He's got plenty their boys their steel to eat. The boy  
is still a good one and I hope he always will be.  
Senator Long wrote to Mr. James Bennett and the letter  
wasn't any to good. In fact I wanted most of it. He pointed  
out that he was eligible for parole and he had made  
satisfactory adjustments. He had escaped from a state  
institution he now mentioned that he was 14 years old  
at the time. and a few years later the reform school  
was investigated for the terrible conditions I am not  
depending how I know what he did and what he was  
supposed to have did. I have changed through the  
years it all depends on what side of the fence you  
on. You yourself. 15 years ago I never dreamed the  
would come a day when I would resent any  
criticism. I read about you, but I did. I feel like my  
brother has paid for everything and I think very dear.  
I myself would be the last one to fight for his  
release if I thought we would any have to go  
and the money again.

son to be

have someone. I have a blind little girl who  
I have tried to do everything in the world for but I  
think now is a hopeless case. I would at least like  
to have peace of mind about my brother. I would  
like to see the folks move up to Canada. I have after  
years at least with him also the boy taken care of. We  
all have had a hard time worrying about things and  
I myself feel like there would be some pressure  
in this matter. There is some one who just is  
going to see he dies in this and believe me I don't  
think it to you. Do you think he has a chance? I  
want to thank you for reading this letter. I had  
meant to write so many times through the years. I  
when there seems to have been doubt in some people  
mind about your work. When you find the  
time I have hopes of hearing from you just  
what my brother's chances are.

Yours very sincerely  
Mrs Emily Parker  
3644 Denvers

September 26, 1951

RECORDED - 35  
INDEXED - 35  
EX-18

7-576-15311

Mrs. Emily Janke  
3644 Dinersey  
Chicago 47, Illinois

Dear Madam:

Your letter of September 19, 1951, has been received.

For your information, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has no jurisdiction over the parole of Federal prisoners and accordingly you may desire to communicate directly with the Parole Executive, U. S. Board of Parole, Washington, D. C.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

NOTE:

The correspondent is a sister of Alvin Karpis (alias Alvin Karpavicz) and in her letter she has requested the Bureau to assist in obtaining a parole for Karpis who is presently incarcerated in Alcatraz under life sentence resulting from the Bremer Kidnapping case.

OJK:jlb

SEP 26 3 30 PM '51

REC'D-10. 20A. 20. 51

COMM - FBI

SEP 27 1951

MAILED 20

65 OCT 20 1951

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Alben \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Laughlin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED ALBANY ROOM  
FBI  
DEPT OF JUSTICE  
SEP 26 7 43 PM '51

SERVICE UNIT  
SEARCH SLIP

4-22a

Supervisor C. M. Hall Room 5914

Subj: Alvin Karpis

☒ Exact Spelling  
☐ All References  
☐ Subversive Ref.  
☒ Main File  
☐ Restricted to Locality of \_\_\_\_\_

Searchers  
Initial sd  
Date 9/25/51

4232

FILE NUMBER

SERIALS

91-387

91-569

7-979

32-16384

76-585

7-576

26-22977

26-28915

sd 7235

Initialed

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (7-576)  
 FROM : SAC, Minneapolis (7-30)  
 SUBJECT: BREKID

DATE: March 24, 1952

Rebulet dated May 10, 1950, regarding LEONARD HANKINS.

Instant file contains numerous newspaper articles which reflect that according to the Minneapolis "Morning Tribune" for November 28, 1951, LEONARD HANKINS, age 56, Stillwater inmate, who has served almost 19 years of a life sentence, was ordered freed Tuesday by the Minnesota Pardon Board; that he has been in prison since his conviction February 6, 1933 for alleged participation in a triple murder during the BARKER-KARPIS gang holdup of a Minneapolis bank.

This article further reflects that HANKINS has protested his innocence throughout the 19 years and that his life sentence was commuted at a special meeting of the Pardon Board, at which a dozen witnesses testified they did not believe HANKINS was involved in either the \$112,000 holdup, or the slaying of two policemen and a bystander.

This file contains other newspaper items relating to HANKINS' being released from the Minnesota State Prison at Stillwater, Minnesota, and he was accompanied by his siter, Mrs. DELLA LOWRY of Dawson Springs, Kentucky.

The Minneapolis "Morning Tribune" for December 3, 1951, contains a dateline of Dawson Springs, Kentucky, which reflects that LEONARD HANKINS returns there to his home town and that a score of relatives and close friends greeted him.

The Minnesota State Prison, Stillwater, Minnesota, advises that the sentence of LEONARD HANKINS is their number 11551 and was commuted by action of the Board of Pardons on November 28, 1951, with the condition that he lead a law-abiding life, and they transmitted a copy of his latest photograph, which was taken November 28, 1951, and which contains the following descriptive data:

RNP:mea

cc: Louisville

Enc. (1)

1 ENCL

24 Encl. det.

Nec

RECEIVED

RECORDED - 24

INDEXED - 24

MAR 27 1952

117-576-15312

Memo, Director

Re: BREKID

3-24-52

Name	LEONARD HANKINS <i>PHOTOGRAPH</i>
Alias	Owen Lewis
Age	56
Race	White
Height	5'10 1/2"
Nationality	American
Build	Slender
Complexion	Fair
Hair	Grey/bald
Eyes	Grey
Weight	155 lbs.
Sentenced	2-6-33
Term	Life
From	Hennepin County for crime of murder 1st degree
Born	<u>October 25, 1895, in Kentucky</u>
Marks and scars	Cut scars on forehead and left side of face. Nose crooked.
Occupation	Farmer
F.P. Class	FBI #240728 9 RA 15 18 RA 14

*one*  
Inasmuch <sup>as</sup> HANKINS is a convicted bank robber, the above mentioned photograph is being transmitted herewith to the Bureau, with a request that copies be made of this latest photo and be forwarded to the Minneapolis and Louisville Offices, in order that the same can be placed in the Bank Robbery Albums.

In addition to this, these offices should be furnished with copies of his latest identification record, including all aliases, addresses, names of associates and description.

*FT*  
The Bureau should also give consideration to placing the fingerprints of this individual in the single fingerprint file for bank robbers, and to placing a copy of this latest photo taken on November 28, 1951, in the bank robber file.

*Photograph*

SAC, Minneapolis (7-30)

April 15, 1952

Director

RECORDED 100  
(7-576) - 15312

EX-106

BREKID

Reurlet March 24, 1952.

A transcript of the identification record and three copies of the submitted photograph of Leonard Hankins, FBI #240728, are enclosed.

The identification record and photographs of Hankins are also being furnished the Louisville office.

Enclosures (4)

cc: Louisville (Enclosures 4)

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Hosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_

COMM - FBI  
APR 15 1952  
MAILED 20

RECEIVED  
APR 18 10 22 AM '52  
RECEIVED  
APR 18 1 41 PM '52  
RECEIVED

89  
245  
NEC

Mr. Harbo

August 6, 1952

D. J. Parsons

GUNS FOR DISPOSITION

*BREKID*

The weapons listed below are being forwarded to the Chief Clerk's Office for appropriate dispositions:

<u>CALIBER</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>SERIAL #</u>	<u>FILE #</u>
.45	Thompson sub-machine gun	2214	26-45489
.45	Thompson sub-machine gun	3854	62-38785
.45	Thompson sub-machine gun	5282	7-576
.45	Thompson sub-machine gun	6315	62-29777
	Gas Riot gun	27755	65-1675
	Gas Gun (Home-made)		
	Black carrying case and extra receiver		80-14

The four machine guns were obtained in the investigations of Dillinger, the Barkers and Carl Straka. A review of the files in each of these cases revealed that after being deemed no longer of evidentiary value, they were forwarded to Quantico for training purposes. Quantico advised that these weapons are no longer serviceable. Crime Records has advised that none of these weapons is desired by them for exhibit purposes.

The two gas guns, receiver and case are of no evidentiary value.

80-14-1

cc: 26-45489  
62-38785  
7-576  
62-29777  
65-1675

E/B:bjl

17-576-✓  
NOT RECORDED  
141 SEP 4 1952

63 SEP 29 1952

INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI  
 FROM : SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (7-30)  
 SUBJECT: BREKID

DATE: January 6, 1955

AIR MAIL - SPECIAL DELIVERY

Mr. Tolson  
 Mr. Boardman  
 Mr. Glavin  
 Mr. Harbo  
 Mr. Rosen  
 Mr. Tracy  
 Mr. Mohr  
 Mr. Winterrowd  
 Tele. Room  
 Mr. Holloman  
 Miss Gandy

Attached hereto are (1) photostat of writ of habeas corpus filed by VOLNEY DAVIS 12-9-52 in United States District Court, St. Paul, Minn., and (2) news item appearing in the "St. Paul Dispatch" of 1-2-53 in connection therewith.

The Bureau will recall that VOLNEY DAVIS is a member of the former Karpis-Barker Gang who kidnapped EDWARD G. BREMER. DAVIS is presently serving a life sentence in the Federal Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas.

This is the second writ of habeas corpus and is along similar lines to that he previously filed, which is substantially reflected in report of SA SAMUEL W. HARDY, St. Paul, Minn., dated 4-10-40 in the BREKID case.

This new writ of habeas corpus has just been brought to our attention by Assistant United States Attorney WILLIAM ESSLING, St. Paul, Minn. We have conferred with Mr. ESSLING as to just what information and evidence he desires prepared in order to defend this writ of habeas corpus. He has not as yet given us a definite decision on this, but we expect to have it from him within the next few days. At that time the Bureau will be fully advised by report in this matter.

EXPEDITE PROCESSING

SWH:MAT  
 Enc. (2)

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

RECORDED - 79

7-576-15313

DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED

F B I

RECEIVED - 10/20/54

Jan 2 - 1953  
**Kidnap Figure  
Seeks Freedom**  
*St. Paul Dispatch*

Volney Davis, who is serving a life sentence for conspiracy in the 1934 kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, St. Paul banker, wants to get out of prison.

He has filed a motion in U. S. district court here asking that the sentence imposed on him here in 1935, be either vacated or reduced.

Among the reasons he gives are that he pleaded guilty to conspiracy without the advice of an attorney; he didn't know that under the Constitution he had the right to an attorney, and that he was led to believe if he pleaded guilty to conspiracy he would get a lighter sentence.

He charges that several of those indicted in the kidnaping received lighter sentences on the conspiracy charges. He names Elmer Farmer who was sentenced to 20 years; Harold Alderton, 20; James Wilson, 10, and John Joseph McLaughlin, five, among the 26 indicted, to get lighter sentences.

William Essling, assistant U. S. attorney, who said the government will fight Davis' bid for freedom, said that Davis asks the court to bring him to St. Paul from Leavenworth federal prison, where he now is, to argue his own case.



VOLNEY DAVIS

"St. Paul Dispatch" - 1-2-53

TO: THE BUREAU

RE: BREKID

ALVIN KARPIS, was., deceased  
EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM; KIDNAPPING

7-576-1531

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

THIRD DIVISION

VOLNEY DAVIS  
Petitioner

VS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
Respondent

No. 6096 Criminal

NOTICE TO CLERK OF COURT

The petitioner and defendant is hereby, within,  
mailing the original and four (4) copies thereof to  
you, and requesting that you make proper service of  
this cause of action on the opposing side, and enter  
said service upon the record in this cause.

Respectfully submitted

*Volney Davis*  
Volney Davis



FILED *December 9* 1952

CHILL E. SMITH, Clerk,

*William H. Eckley*  
Deputy

EXHIBIT

UNITED STATES CASES AND RULES OF CRIMINAL LAW AND  
PROCEDURE SUPPORTING CONTENTIONS IN THIS MOTION.

Title 28, Section 2255.  
Title 28, Section 1654 U.S.C.A.  
Johnson v. Zerbst, 1938, 304 U.S. 458.  
Walker v. Johnston, 312 U.S. 275.  
18 U.S.C.A. (Supp) following - 687.  
Evans v. Rice, 126 F. (2d) 633, 637 (app.D.C.1942)  
Von Moltke v. Giles, 332 U.S. 708 (1948)  
Gurtis v. Hiatt 169 F. (2d) 1019.  
Frank v. Mangum, 237 U.S. 309.  
Johnson v. Zerbst Super, 304, U.S. 458, 462,  
82 L. Ed. 1461, 1465.  
Waley v. Johnston, 316, U.S. 101, 86 L (Ed.) 1302.  
Screws v. United States 325, U.S. 91, 120, 89, L,  
(Ed.) 1945.  
Walker v. Johnston U.S.C.A. 6 Amend.;  
61 S.Ct. 574 reversing 109 Fed. 2d. 436.  
McNabb v. U.S. 318 U.S. 332 (1943)  
Upshaw v. U.S., 335 U.S. 410 (1949)  
McNabb - Upshaw doctrine, see 43 Ill. L.  
Rev. 442.  
GLASSER v. U.S. 60, 62, S. Ct. 457, 465,  
86 L. (Ed.) 680.  
Brauer v. U.S. 299, F 10;  
King v. Solomons, 4, 1, T.R. 251.  
Hayman v. U.S. 187, F. (2d) 453.  
U.S. v. Hayman 342, U.S. 205, 72. S. Ct. 263.  
Brown v. Rines, C.C.A. 104, F (2) 240;  
Mooney v. Hollohon, N.C. 294.  
Kercheval v. U.S. 274 U.S. 220.  
U.S. Law Title 28, Sec. 2255.  
Rules of Criminal Procedure  
Rules 5, 10, 35, 44.  
Constitutional Amendments  
5th Amend., 6th Amend., 8th Amend.

STATE OF KANSAS  
LEAVENWORTH COUNTY

SS:

AFFIDAVIT OF POVERTY

1. I am a citizen of the United States by virtue of birth.

2. I am the defendant and petitioner in the above entitled actions and entitled to defend the same.

3. Because of my poverty, I am unable to pay the costs of said filing or to give security for the same.

4. This affidavit is made for the purpose of availing myself of the rights and privileges in such cause provided by Section 1915, Title 28, of the United States Code,

5. Unless I am permitted to proceed in forma pauperis and be the recipient of an order directing the Court Clerk to place on the docket the above stated actions, I will be utterly unable to rectify the errors complained of. Wherefore, petitioner prays that he may have leave to file and prosecute aforesaid actions in forma pauperis, pursuant to above said statute.

Volney Davis.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this Dec 5 1952.

Notary Public

My commission expires:

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES JULY 23, 1956

IN THE PETITION OF

VOLNEY DAVIS  
Petitioner

VS

No. 3096 Criminal

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
Respondent

CERTIFICATE OF PETITIONER PROCEEDING

PRO SE IN FORMA PAUPERIS

I hereby certify that I am without counsel and  
am proceeding in the above entitled cause and that,  
in my judgment, the foregoing petition is well  
founded in law and in fact, and that said petition  
is not interposed for harassment.

Dated: 7-2-67 1967 at Leavenworth,  
Kansas.

Volney Davis

P. O. Box 3200  
Leavenworth, Kansas

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
DISTRICT COURT  
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA  
THIRD DIVISION

VOLNEY DAVIS  
Petitioner

VS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
Respondent

No. 6096 Criminal

PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS ADTESTIFICANDUM

Comes now Volney Davis, petitioner, and moves the Court to direct a Writ of Habeas Corpus Adtestificandum be issued directing the United States Marshall for the Court to obtain the body of Petitioner from custody of the Warden of the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, to produce him before this Court for the purpose of giving testimony in support of his motion to vacate. Court's attention is directed to the fact your Petitioner is proceeding pro se in accordance with provision of Title 28, Section 1654 U.S.C.A.

Volney Davis.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this day Dec 5, 1952.

Wm  
Notary Public

My commission expires

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES JULY 23, 1956

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

THIRD DIVISION

VOLNEY DAVIS  
Petitioner

VS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
Respondent

No. 6096 Criminal

MOTION TO VACATE OR NULLIFY AND/OR REDUCE JUDGMENT.

The Honorable and Learned Judge Mathew M. Joyce:

May it please the Court.

Comes now your Petitioner, Volney Davis, pro se,  
and enters his name as attorney of record in the  
above captioned proceedings pursuant to the provisions  
of Title 28, Section ~~1654~~ <sup>1654</sup> U.S.C.A. and gives notice  
to the Court that he is going to keep control and  
management of his case throughout the life of same  
in this proceeding.

JURISDICTIONAL STATEMENT

The jurisdiction of the Court is hereby  
invoked in accordance with the provision of Title  
28, Section 2255, U.S.C.

Petitioner was arraigned June 3, 1935,  
and was sentenced June 7, 1935. Petitioner herein  
moves the Court to vacate or nullify, or set aside,  
and/or reduce the judgment imposed by an incomplete  
Court for the following reasons, to-wit:

1. Petitioner was sentenced to a life sentence  
without the advice of counsel on June 7, 1935, and  
at the same time four other co-defendants charged  
on the same indictment for the same offence were  
sentenced to terms of years as follows: Elmer Farmer,  
20 years; Harold Alderton, 20 years; James Wilson,  
10 years, and John Joseph McLaughlin, 5 years.

2. When Petitioner was sentenced he did not know that the Constitution of the United States had anything to do with him as to his rights, or that the Judge was to protect his rights by them. In fact, Petitioner had never read the Bill of Rights.

3. Petitioner was led to believe, by his questioners, that if he entered a plea to conspiracy he would be given a term of years.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

THIRD DIVISION

VOLNEY DAVIS  
Petitioner

VS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
Respondent

No. 6096 Criminal

MOTION TO SET ASIDE AND VACATE AND  
NULLIFY AND/OR REDUCE JUDGMENT

TO HONORABLE MATTHEW M. JOYCE, JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

Comes now the Petitioner and Defendant, Volney Davis, in the above entitled and numbered cause and moves the Honorable and learned Court that an order be made and entered and directed to the Attorney General of the United States of America directing that judgment and sentence be set aside, and vacated, and/or reduced in the above styled cause of action for facts that follow, to-wit:

1. Petitioner was not represented by Counsel.
2. Petitioner was never taken before a United States Commissioner, which violates Rule 5 of United States Criminal Procedure.
3. Petitioner was never presented with a copy of the Indictment prior to his trial, which is in violation of Rule 10 of Criminal Procedure.
4. Petitioner was not thoroughly advised as to his constitutional rights before entering plea, or before being sentenced.
5. Petitioner did not wholly voluntarily, intelligently, and competently waive the right to counsel.
6. Petitioner, being unlearned in law, did not understand or know his constitutional rights.

- ✓ 7. Petitioner was held incommunicado in a distant city under questioning, in chains and in secrecy.
- ✓ 8. Petitioner was led to believe, by his captors, that if he entered a guilty plea he would be given a term of years.

#### ARGUMENTS FOR REASON NO. 1

1. Petitioner was brought into court direct from forty hours without sleep and continuous questioning, and was in no mental condition to make any decisions of importance. He had been told by the F.B.I. Agents that he could not have a lawyer and that he could not use a telephone or see anyone until he made a statement. He was handcuffed and shackled all this time. Any thing he might have said was influenced by this condition.

He agreed to enter a plea after he was told there were two counts against him. They said one was kidnapping, of which he knew he was not guilty. The other was conspiracy. They told him if he knew any of the people charged with the kidnapping or had ever associated with them during the crime he would be guilty of conspiracy. They also <sup>said</sup> conspiracy carried a less penalty than kidnapping. The assistant prosecutor, Mr. Hiesey led him to believe this. It was under such conditions he agreed to plead guilty to conspiracy.

He was brought into court on the 7th day of June, 193<sup>5</sup> with the above mentioned co-defendants, and if his memory serves him right, he was sentenced first. To the best of his knowledge, this is what was said to him by the Honorable Mathew M. Joyce as he stood there before a crowded court room without a friend of any kind to speak for him or advise him in any way. "Your name is Volney Davis?", he said. "Yes". "Do you have a lawyer?" he said. "No, I don't - I don't need one, do I?" "No

you don't. You have entered a plea to conspiracy, but I am not sentencing you as a conspirator - I am sentencing you as an actual kidnapper; as being on the scene of the crime; having a gun in your hand, ready and willing to aid in any way you could to see that the crime was carried through. I am sentencing you to the Leavenworth Penitentiary to serve your natural life at hard labor."

The four above named co-defendants were sentenced to terms of years after each and every one had a lawyer to go before the court and make a plea for him in his behalf.

#### ARGUMENTS FOR REASON NO. 2

2. Petitioner had only a sixth grade education in June, 1935, and to his knowledge, had never read the Bill of Rights, nor the United States Constitution. How could a layman waive such an essential right intelligently and competently when he did not know of his rights, nor even of the judge's duty to grant him his rights? Petitioner was never counseled nor told that he should have a counsel to defend his

rights and to have one in opposition to the United States Prosecutor would make a complete court. A judgment handed down against a defendant by an incomplete court is void. A complete court consists of a Judge, the Attorney representing the government, and the attorney representing the defence. The absence of one of the above named officials constitutes an incomplete court and thereby makes the proceedings illegal and a denial of due process of law, which is in direct violation of the Fifth and Sixth Amendments to the United States Constitution. (The ~~First~~ <sup>Fifth</sup> Amendment states: "...nor a person be deprived of his life, liberty or property, without due process of law." The

Sixth Amendment states: "Defendant shall enjoy the assistance of counsel at every step in his proceeding, including time to confer with counsel."

When it is apparent that the defendant in a criminal proceeding is about to lose the most valuable asset he could possibly own on the face of this earth and it is in jeopardy, and he is ignorant of his Constitutional Rights, how could a defendant competently and intelligently waive so valuable a right? This right of counsel is considered indispensable by the higher courts.

(CITING)

Johnson vs. Zerbst, 1938, 304 U.S. 458. Codified in the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. Rule 44, Assignment of Counsel. "If the defendant appears in court without a counsel, the court shall advise him of his right to counsel and assign counsel to represent him at every stage of the proceeding, unless he elects to proceed without counsel, or is able to obtain counsel." 18 U.S.C.A. (Supp) following - 687.

Walker vs. Johnston, 312 U.S. 275 implicitly held that a plea of guilty should not be deemed a waiver of counsel. And, Evans vs. <sup>RICE</sup> ~~Law~~, 126 F (2d) 633, 637

(App. D.C. 1942) held that Johnson vs. Zerbst applied to conviction upon a plea of guilty. Von Moltke vs. Giles, 332 U.S. 708 (1948) (German spy acting without the advise or knowing waiver of counsel, pleaded guilty in a prosecution under the espionage act at the suggestion of an agent of the F.B.I.) applies this rule to an intelligent defendant, financially capable of providing counsel, but merely ignorant of her rights.

In Curtis vs. Hiatt, 169 F (2d) 1019 involving a bank robbery case, the court held that the mere fact that the court offered to appoint an attorney (to which the reply was "no" "I'm guilty") was not enough to constitute waiver. The court must establish a factual

foundation before it can determine whether or not there has been an intelligent waiver of his rights.

"In determining whether one convicted of crime has been denied due process, the entire course of proceedings, and not merely a single step, should be considered." (Frank vs. Mungum, 237 U.S.309) When the substantial rights guaranteed by the Constitution becomes the subject of hollow formality in the lower courts, it is only necessary and reasonable that protective substance be restored to those rights.

This procedure is necessary to insure that prisoners realize the exact charges brought against them and the extreme penalties provided by law, before a plea of guilty is accepted and they are committed to prison.

#### ARGUMENT FOR REASON NO. 3

3. Petitioner was led to believe he would be given a term of years by the F.B.I. Agents if he entered a plea of guilty to conspiracy. Also, a Mr. Hiesley (not sure of spelling of name) who was an Assistant Prosecutor, and talked to petitioner while he was handcuffed in the Federal Building in St. Paul and while petitioner was in the custody of the F.B.I.

Agents, told petitioner there were two counts on the Indictment and one carried a lesser penalty - Conspiracy was the one that carried the lesser penalty, and Petitioner agreed to enter a plea to that part of the Indictment, not knowing what the Indictment said, nor that if he entered a plea to conspiracy that he was also entering a plea to the full Indictment.

#### ARGUMENTS ON FACTS No. 1

1. Petitioner was not represented by counsel. Although Petitioner sent for the minutes of the Court in 1939, they stated petitioner had counsel. Petitioner filed a writ at that time, knowing he had no counsel.

The Writ was held up until the Court could enter a motion to correct the Court minutes to make them read petitioner did not have counsel. The minutes were also changed to make them read: "On the 7th day of June, 1935, came the United States Attorney, George F. Sullivan, and the defendant, Volney Davis, appearing in proper person, and having been asked on June 3, 1935, whether he was willing to plead without the assistance of counsel, replied that he was, and by reason of the plea of guilty entered herein on the 3rd day of June, 1935, it is by the Court."

Petitioner contends that if his case had no more importance to the Court as to his rights by the United States Constitution than for the Court Clerk to keep the records straight during his hearing, that there is cause to show petitioner did not receive due consideration as guaranteed by the Fifth and Sixth Amendments of the Bill of Rights to the United States Constitution. These records were changed without the knowledge of Petitioner, and without him being in Court.

#### ARGUMENT ON FACT No. 2

2. Petitioner was arrested in Chicago, Illinois, June 1, 1935, at 12 o'clock - was then taken to the office of the F.B.I. on the 19th floor of the Federal Building by freight elevator - was held there in chains and not allowed to see anyone - was never taken before a United States Commissioner as Rule 5 of the United States Criminal Procedure requires he shall.

#### ARGUMENT ON FACT No. 3

3. Petitioner was never given a copy of the Indictment prior to his arraignment, nor after his arraignment before sentence, which is in violation of Rule 10 of Criminal Procedure. How could one not versed in law understand an eight-page indictment with twenty-six

people named in it, some of which Petitioner had never heard of much less knew, make an intelligent waiver of his Constitutional Rights by just hearing it read, after Petitioner had been without sleep for two days and two nights?

ARGUMENT ON FACT No. 4

4. Petitioner, to his knowledge, was not advised thoroughly as to his Constitutional Rights before entering plea, as no one told him why he should have a counsel to make the court complete, nor that it was the duty of the Court to see that if counsel was waived that Petitioner should be interviewed as to his knowledge of his Constitutional Rights and the reason he should have counsel to protect him in every stage of the procedure to the cause at hand. Citing this decision in support of fact No. 4:

In *Curtis vs. Hiatt*, 169 F (2d) 1019 involving a bank robbery case, the court held that the mere fact that the court offered to appoint an attorney (to which the reply was "No, I'm guilty.") was not enough to constitute waiver. The court must establish a factual foundation before it can determine whether or not there has been an intelligent waiver of his rights. Petitioner thus contends that the facts which will be brought out on a full hearing will show that the case was disposed of with all possible dispatch, to such an extent that the procedure violated the requirements of the Fifth and Sixth Amendments. In determining whether one convicted of crime has been denied due process, the entire course of proceedings, and not merely a single step, should be considered,

ARGUMENT ON FACT No. 5

5. Petitioner, having only a Sixth grade education at time of his trial knew nothing of the workings of a Federal Court, nor did he knowingly waive any of

his constitutional rights. He only did what he was told by the prosecution and the F.B.I. Agents. Thinking they, being the Government officials, had all power and could do as they wanted. Petitioner knew nothing of due process nor Constitutional Rights.

Johnson vs. Zerbst, super, 304, U.S. 458, 462; 82 L. Ed. 1461, 1465. The right of the accused to be informed of his right to counsel for his defence is an affirmative duty which the Sixth Amendment places on the Government. It is a condition precedent to the jurisdiction of the Court, and non compliance with this condition deprives the Court of jurisdiction to proceed. In Johnson v. Zerbst, 304 U.S. 458, 462, 82 L. Ed 1461, 1465, the court said "If this requirement (the right to counsel) of the Sixth Amendment is not complied with, the court no longer has jurisdiction to proceed." 304 U.S. at 468; C.F. Waley v. Johnston, 316 U.S. 101, 86 L. Ed. 1302, where it was held that a coerced plea of guilty deprived the trial court of jurisdiction even though the defendant was represented by counsel.

The rights guaranteed by the Sixth Amendment can be waived, but only by an intelligent and understanding waiver, and "courts indulge every reasonable presumption against waiver of fundamental constitutional rights." Johnson v. Zerbst, super.

#### ARGUMENTS ON FACTS No. 6

6. Petitioner, being limited in understanding of Federal Court procedure and with only a Sixth grade education, could not have understood nor known his Constitutional Rights.

The government is under an obligation to deal fairly with persons accused of criminal offences. The minimum of its obligation is to inform the accused of the elements of the offence charged.

conspiracy was the lesser charge, and one could get a term of years for that count.

The following are laws and cases cited to uphold Petitioner's contentions in this Motion.

Glasser vs. U.S. 60, 62. S. Ct. 457, 465, 86 L. Ed. 680:

The court said through Mr. Justice Murphy:

"To preserve the protection of the Bill of Rights for hard pressed defendants, we indulge every reasonable presumption against the waiver of fundamental rights.

"The fact that Glasser is an attorney is, of course, immaterial to a consideration of his right to the protection of the Sixth Amendment; his professional experience may be a factor in determining whether he actually waived his rights to the assistance of counsel, but is by no means conclusive." The accused and record facts that show such denial will warrant his discharge from confinement and setting aside of the sentence secured by such means. Johnson vs. Zerbst, supra.

A conviction must be good in all its parts - the Indictment must be supported by both - lacking these qualities fundamental in the administration of justice, the entire procedure is void. Brauer vs. United States 299 F 10; King vs. Solomons, 4, 1, T.R. 251.

A conviction received in violation of a defendants Constitutional Rights is void for want of the elements of due process and the proceedings thereby violated may be challenged in any appropriate manner re: Brown vs. Rines, C.C. A. 104 F (2) 240; Mooney vs. Hollohan, N.C. 294.

In the case of Walker vs. Johnston 312 U.S. 275, the Court said: "A petitioner cannot be denied the opportunity to prove the truth of the allegations he makes."

The Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution says. "and to have the assistance of

counsel for his defense."

Von Moltke v. Gilles, *supra*., The court citing Kerchival v. U.S. 274 U.S. 220 said:

"A plea of guilty differs in purpose and effect from a mere admission or extra-judicial confession; it is itself a conviction. Out of just consideration for persons accused of crime, courts are careful that a plea of guilty shall not be accepted unless made voluntarily and with full understanding of the consequences." (underlined, writer's italics)

A waiver of the Constitutional Right to the assistance of counsel is of no less moment to an accused who must decide whether to plead guilty than to an accused who stands trial.....(id)

"The right to have the assistance of counsel is too fundamental and absolute to require Courts to indulge in nice calculations as to the amount of prejudice arising from its denial."

In the case of the eleven communists convicted for conspiracy to overthrow the United States Government, Supreme Court Justice Jackson ruled: "The right of every American to equal treatment before the law is wrapped up in the same constitution bundle with those of the communists."

The Court ruled in the communist defendants' favor, and made certain that the Constitution was adhered to in every respect.

#### IN CONCLUSION

Petitioner has written this motion in the best manner at his command. Petitioner prays the Honorable Judge Mathew M. Joyce will excuse mistakes in grammar, phraseology, construction, and repetitious statements. Petitioner has made this motion in good faith.

Petitioner's name is not used in any overt act in

the Indictment as are the names of two of the  
co-defendants who were sentenced to twenty years  
each at same time petitioner received a life sentence.  
Petitioner prays to the Lord and to the Honorable  
Court that this motion will receive favorable action.  
Respectfully submitted.

Volney Davis  
Volney Davis 47101

STATE OF KANSAS  
COUNTY OF LEAVENWORTH

S.S. OATH OF VERIFICATION

Volney Davis being first duly sworn  
upon his oath deposes and says he is the defendant  
named in the foregoing and that statements made  
therein are true according to his best knowledge  
and belief.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day  
of Dec, 1952.

W. W. Davis  
Notary Public

My commission expires:

ENCLOSURE

7-576-15313

SAC, Minneapolis (7-30)

January 16, 1953

RECORDED - 79

Director, FBI (7-576) - 15313

BREXID

Reurlet dated January 6, 1953, enclosing Photostats of the papers filed in a habeas corpus proceeding by Volney Davis.

It is noted that this is the second writ of habeas corpus filed by Subject Davis and that it contains allegations similar to those previously alleged concerning Bureau Agents which were fully refuted and the writ denied in 1940.

You are instructed to carefully review the various allegations now being made by Davis and discuss them with the U. S. Attorney. In your discussion with the U. S. Attorney you should make certain that each allegation will be properly refuted. You are also to ascertain his desires as to any additional investigation and then make certain that same is thoroughly and promptly handled.

You are requested to keep the Bureau advised as to any pertinent developments in this matter.

WRH:dw

COMM - FBI

JAN 21 1953

MAILED 20

Tolson  
Ladd  
Clegg  
Glavin  
Nichols  
Rosen  
Tracy  
Harbo  
Belmont  
Mohr  
Tele. Room  
Nease  
Gandy

7 FEB 4 1953

70 FEB 16 1953

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Pen

WRH

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (7-576)

FROM : *By* SAC, Minneapolis (7-30)

SUBJECT: BREKID

DATE: 2/4/53

Mr. Ladd ☒  
 Mr. Nichols ☒  
 Mr. Belmont ☒  
 Mr. Clegg ☒  
 Mr. Glavin ☒  
 Mr. Harbo ☒  
 Mr. Rosen ☒  
 Mr. Tracy ☒  
 Mr. Mohr ☒  
 Mr. Winterrowd ☒  
 Mr. Holloman ☒  
 Mr. Sizoo ☒  
 Mr. Gandy ☒

Re Minneapolis letter to Bureau, 1/6/53 and Bureau letter to Minneapolis, 1/16/53.

A review of the affidavit filed by VOLNEY DAVIS with the Clerk of U. S. District Court, St. Paul, Minnesota, reflects that the allegations set forth in this affidavit are similar in most respects to those set forth in his application for release on a writ of habeas corpus, which was filed in U.S. District Court at San Francisco, California, in 1940, with the exception of the following:

1. In this petition DAVIS claims he was not taken before a United States Commissioner at the time of his arrest in Chicago, Illinois.
2. That he was given a copy of the indictment;
3. That he was not thoroughly advised as to his constitutional rights;
4. That he was led to believe he had been given a term of years rather than a life sentence.

On January 6, 1953, this case was discussed with AUSA WILLIAM ESSLING, St. Paul, Minnesota, by SA SAMUEL W. HARDY of this office. At this time Mr. ESSLING did not request any further investigation regarding allegations made by DAVIS inasmuch as the allegations regarding treatment by Bureau agents had been set forth in DAVIS' petition in the U. S. District Court at San Francisco, California, and had been refuted by agents in reports of SAs SAMUEL W. HARDY, St. Paul, Minnesota, 4/10/40, JOHN E. BRENNAN, St. Louis, Missouri, 4/15/40 and HAROLD E. ANDERSON, Oklahoma City, 4/24/40.

Mr. ESSLING advised that he would review the United States Attorney's file in this matter and file an answer to VOLNEY DAVIS' allegations with the Honorable MATTHEW M. JOYCE, Judge of the U. S. District Court at Minneapolis, Minnesota.

By letter dated January 16, 1953, the United States Attorney wrote a letter to Honorable MATTHEW M. JOYCE, in which he requested the court to make its Order summarily denying the petition of DAVIS. A copy of this letter is attached.

PRC:NJG

53 FEB 18 1953

RECORDED-107

INDEXED-107

7-576-15314  
38 FEB 6 1953

Letter to Director, FBI (7-576)  
Mpls. 7-30

On 1/21/53 the Honorable MATTHEW JOYCE denied the petition of VOLNEY DAVIS, and a copy of the order of Honorable MATTHEW M. JOYCE denying this petition is also attached hereto.

In view of the foregoing, no further investigation is being conducted by the Minneapolis Office in this matter.

10-7106

WVE/hls

January 16, 1935.

Honorable Matthew M. Joyce,  
United States District Judge,  
United States Courthouse,  
Minneapolis (1), Minnesota.

Re: Volney Davis -vs- United States,  
No. 6096 Cr., Third Division,  
District of Minnesota.

Dear Judge Joyce:-

The Clerk has forwarded to us some Motions and Petitions by Volney Davis by which he seeks to have the judgment and sentence in this case, vacated, nullified or reduced. The copies furnished us are carbon copies and indicate that the original and four copies were filed, so we assume that the original moving papers are available to you.

It appears that the petitioner is seeking relief under Title 28 U.S.C. 2255. We believe that the files and records conclusively show that the petitioner is entitled to no relief and that the petitions can be summarily denied. The Statute above cited contemplates such disposition.

The facts in relation to petitioner are as follows:

(1) Volney Davis was indicted by a United States Grand Jury on January 22, 1935. The indictment charged violation of Chapter 271, 72nd Congress, First Session (47 U.S. Statute at Large, Vol. 1, page 326). This was the Lindberg Kidnap Act and a copy is attached hereto for convenience. This law was subsequently amended but the original Act is the one under which Davis was indicted.

(2) On January 22, 1935, the date the indictment was returned, a Warrant for arrest of Davis was issued by the Clerk of U. S. District Court at St. Paul, and bond fixed at \$100,000.00.

(3) Davis was arrested on this Warrant on June 1, 1935, at Chicago, Illinois, and removed to St. Paul, Minnesota, on June 2, 1935.

7-576-15314

Judge Joyce - #2.  
January 16, 1953.

(4) On June 3, 1935, he was arraigned before you in St. Paul. At this time he was advised of his rights, waived counsel, and after the indictment was read to him by the Clerk in open Court, he entered a plea of "guilty" thereto. Sentence was deferred to June 7, 1935.

(5) On June 7, 1935, Defendant was sentenced and committed to the custody of the Attorney General of the United States for a term of his natural life.

(6) On March 18, 1940, Davis petitioned the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, Southern Division, for a Writ of Habeas Corpus. This petition was heard by Honorable Harold Louderback, and denied. On June 24, 1940, the same said Judge denied Davis' petition for allowance of appeal in forma pauperis. A copy of this certificate denying the petition for appeal, is attached.

In the California petition, copy of which is attached, and which was prior to the enactment of Title 28 U.S.C. 2255, Davis set forth all of the facts upon which he bases his present petition. In the present petition, Davis sets forth grounds for relief which at first may seem to appear as new grounds but which are in substance the same as in his previous petition.

The grounds for relief set forth in the present petition are eight in number and we should like to discuss them briefly in that order. They are as follows:

(1) "Petitioner was not represented by counsel."

This was specifically stated in the prior petition to the California Court and was determined adverse to Davis at that time.

(2) "Petitioner was never taken before a United States Commissioner, which violates Rule 5 of United States Criminal Procedure."

In respect to this ground for relief, it can be noted that the Rules of Criminal Procedure did not come into effect until November 1, 1945, and are to govern criminal proceedings commenced after that date. It can further be noted that even under the present Rules there was no necessity at that time for taking Davis before a United States Commissioner as he was arrested pursuant to a Warrant issued upon an indictment of a Grand Jury and bond was fixed by the Court. Thus no purpose at all would have been served by taking Davis before a United States Commissioner.

Judge Joyce - #3.  
January 16, 1953.

(3) "Petitioner was never presented with a copy of the indictment prior to his trial which is a violation of Rule 10, Criminal Procedure."

Here again it can be noted that the Rules of Criminal Procedure did not come into effect until November 1, 1945. Under Rule 10, the requirement that a defendant be furnished a copy of the indictment prior to trial, is a new requirement. Such requirement did not exist at the time Davis was arrested, arraigned and sentenced. This question as to the furnishing of a copy of an indictment, was considered in Guckovich vs. United States, 170 Fed (2d) 89, and certiorari denied, 336 U. S. 905. This case holds that at the time of arraignment and plea of "guilty" there was no requirement that defendant be furnished with a copy of the indictment; that it was not necessary that defendant be furnished with such copy.

(4) "Petitioner was not thoroughly advised as to his Constitutional rights before entering a plea, or before being sentenced."

This was considered in the previous California petition and determined adverse to the defendants.

(5) "Petitioner did not wholly, voluntarily, intelligently and competently waive indictment to counsel."

This was determined in the California petition.

(6) "Petitioner, being unlearned in the law, did not understand or know his Constitutional rights."

This was determined in the California petition.

(7) "Petitioner was held incommunicado in a distant city under questioning in chains and secrecy."

This was determined in the California petition. Because this defendant had previously escaped from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, it was necessary to exercise great precaution in keeping him in custody. Nevertheless the record clearly shows that Defendant's plea of "guilty" and waiver of counsel was made by him with full knowledge of all the facts, and an opportunity to protect himself.

(8) "Petitioner was led to believe by his cantors that if he entered a plea of 'guilty' he would be given a term of years."

Defendant made this same claim in his previous petition and relief was denied him. It has been determined that a life sentence

Judge Joyce - #4.  
January 16, 1953.

under the Lindberg Kidnap Act above referred to is a proper sentence.

See Bates vs. Johnston (9 Cir.) 111 Fed (2d) 966 in which the same question was raised and a life sentence held proper, and in this case certiorari was denied.

We have attached to this letter a copy of affidavits and papers furnished the California Court together with the Order of Judge Louderback denying the pauper's appeal in which Judge Louderback states as follows: "The records of the case disclose that petitioner intelligently waived the right to counsel. The petitioner shows no merit in the proposed appeal."

We have not retained copies of these documents in our file and if they can be returned at disposition of this matter, it will be appreciated.

We feel, therefore, that in this matter the Court would be justified in making its Order summarily denying the petitions of Davis. If the Court feels that there should be a hearing of any further proof, we should appreciate a date being set for such hearing so that we may obtain such witnesses as may be necessary. We feel in any event that if such hearing were ordered, that there is no necessity for bringing Davis from the Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, and Title 28 U.S.C., Section 2255 clearly indicates that such is not necessary.

Respectfully yours,

PHILIP NEVILLE,  
United States Attorney.

Encl.

ENCLOSURES TO BUREAU

BREKID

Bureau file 7-576

Mpls. file 7-30

ENCLOSURE

7-576-15314

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA  
THIRD DIVISION

United States of America, )  
Plaintiff, )

-vs-

Volney Davis, )  
Defendant. )

No. 6096 Criminal

ORDER

Volney Davis moves this court under Title 28, Section 2255, for an order vacating or setting aside the life sentence imposed upon him in 1935 following his plea of guilty to an indictment charging him with violation of the Lindbergh Act, 48 Stat. 781, and prays leave to file the same in forma pauperis. Authority to file such a motion in forma pauperis is unnecessary. The grounds for relief set forth in the motion are, briefly, that petitioner was not represented by counsel and did not intelligently waive his right thereto; that he was never taken before a United States Commissioner and was never presented with a copy of the indictment as required by the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure; that he was not advised of his constitutional rights; that he was held incommunicado, in chains, and in secrecy, prior to his arraignment; and that he was led to believe by his captors that if he entered a plea of guilty he would be given a term of years.

Substantially the same grounds were presented to the United States District Court of the Northern District of California, Southern District, early in 1940, in a petition for a writ of habeas corpus. The petition was denied as was his subsequent application to appeal in forma pauperis. While this fact alone would be persuasive authority for a denial of the motion here, nonetheless I have carefully examined the now voluminous files and records in petitioner's case and I find no merit in any of his claims. The record conclusively shows, and corroborates my own recollection in this regard, that the petitioner was fully apprised of his right to have counsel and freely and intelligently waived his right thereto. Also, there was no necessity for taking petitioner before a United States Commissioner since he was arrested pursuant to a warrant issued upon a Grand Jury indictment. At the time petitioner was arraigned there existed no requirement that he be furnished with a copy of the

indictment. While it has been the custom of this court to insure this being done, the record here is silent in that respect. The record does show, however, that petitioner was made aware of and was fully acquainted with the nature of the charge against him, and that the indictment was read to him in open court before his plea was entered. The record also negates the claim of petitioner that he was held incommunicado, in chains and secrecy, although there is no doubt that he was closely guarded, and rightly so in view of his past escape record. Nor is there anything in the record which gives any support to his claim that he was promised a term of years if he pleaded "guilty". The validity of a life sentence under the Lindbergh Act as it existed at the time of sentencing, was considered and held proper in Bates v. Johnston, (9 Cir.), 111 F. (2d) 966. At any rate, none of the latter claims constitutes grounds for the relief specified in Section 2255 of Title 28, United States Code.

The within motion follows a volume of correspondence addressed to this court by petitioner, and in the opinion of the court is largely influenced by the hope that this court will permit his natural sympathy to override the consideration he must give to the merits of petitioner's claims. This the court cannot do. The files and records show conclusively that the petitioner is entitled to no relief, and his motion is therefore denied.

MATTHEW M. JOYCE  
United States District Judge.

S  
Dated January 21st, 1953.

SAC, Minneapolis (7-30)

February 9, 1953

Director, FBI (7-576)

**EXEMPT**

Reurlet 1-6-53, and Bulet 1-16-53, concerning the habeas corpus proceedings filed by Volney Davis.

You are requested to advise the Bureau concerning the investigation or affidavits required by the U. S. Attorney to appropriately defend against this habeas corpus action. Such investigation should, of course, be completed promptly and the Bureau should be furnished with copies of reports of same at least two weeks prior to the date of the hearing.

cc: Mr. Leishear (u)

WRH:jeg

Tolson  
Ladd  
Nichols  
Belmont  
Clegg  
Glavin  
Harbo

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WCK

UNIT 1

UNIT 1

On January 11, 1951, VOLNEY DAVIS filed a motion in the United States District Court at St. Paul, Minnesota, for a writ of habeas corpus. The motion was based on the opinion handed down by the Honorable Judge of the United States District Court at St. Paul, Minnesota, on January 11, 1951. In this notice, DAVIS requests the United States District Court to produce a writ of habeas corpus for his appeal to the Court of Appeals.

On March 12, 1951, Judge JOHN J. DAVIS, U.S. District Court at St. Paul, Minnesota, granted DAVIS's motion and ordered that DAVIS be released from custody. The United States District Court at St. Paul, Minnesota, on March 12, 1951.

The Bureau will be kept advised of any developments in DAVIS's attempt to regain his freedom.

ENC:ANA

RECEIVED  
12-1

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Rosen *FR*  
 FROM : F. L. Price *FLP*  
 SUBJECT: VOLNEY DAVIS  
 KIDNAPING

DATE: January 26, 1954

Call: 4:18 p.m.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
 Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
 Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Laughlin \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*den*  
 SAC Milnes, St. Louis, stated that a story is appearing in the "Globe Democrat" today indicating that the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals has handed down a ruling concerning Volney Davis, who was convicted in connection with the Bremer kidnaping case. According to the newspaper reports, the Court of Appeals ruled that Davis was entitled to a District Court hearing on his claim that his sentence be set aside because he entered a plea of guilty without knowledge that he had the constitutional right to have the advice and counsel of an attorney. Milnes stated that from information available at this time it appears that Davis was sentenced through the District Court at St. Paul, Minnesota. *133-1*

ACTION TAKEN:

Milnes was instructed to furnish additional details on this matter to the Bureau and to St. Paul as soon as available.

He was instructed to immediately get copies of the Circuit Court of Appeals ruling and forward them to the Bureau and Minneapolis.

He was instructed to have the Minneapolis Division make a search of its files and confer with the U. S. Attorney and determine the basis for Davis's appeal and the true facts as revealed by the files of the Minneapolis Division and the U. S. Attorney's Office. *4*

FLP:mfb *mf*  
 cc - Mr. Nichols

*62*  
 FEB 4 1954

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JAN 27 1954

EX-122

HORE

*LE*  
*67*

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 66-6200-7-1

FEBRUARY 2, 1954

AIRTEL

SAC, MINNEAPOLIS

AIR MAIL

*mf*  
*a*  
*a*  
**BREKID. RE ST. LOUIS AIRTEL DATED JANUARY 27, 1954, RE APPEAL OF  
VOLNEY DAVIS. SUBMIT INFORMATION REQUESTED IMMEDIATELY.**

HOOVER

LEC: *mb*

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*7-576-15318*  
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130

58 FEB 9 1954

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COMM - FBI

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*Feb 5 4 12 PM '54*  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
FBI  
RECEIVED - CIV. ROOM

*7/12*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy

AIR TEL  
Transmit the following ~~teletype~~ message to: DIRECTOR

FBI, MINNEAPOLIS

2/4/54

DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576) *Brekid*  
*BREMER KIDNAPING*  
BREKID. RE ST. LOUIS AIRTEL TO DIRECTOR, 1/27/54, AND MINNEAPOLIS

AIR TEL TO DIRECTOR 2/2/54. ALEX DIM, AUSA, ST. PAUL, MINN., ADVISED TODAY THAT AUTHORITY WAS REQUESTED FROM DEPARTMENT BY LETTER DATED 1/23/54, TO PROCEED WITH THE HEARING ORDERED BY THE CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE 8TH CIRCUIT ON A PETITION OF VOLNEY DAVIS. DIM ADVISED CERTIORARI WAS NOT RECOMMENDED TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE REASON THAT THE MATTER SHOULD BE DISPOSED OF AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE BY HOLDING HEARING BY JUDGE JOYCE AND PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF 28, USC, 2255. DIM STATED FURTHER IN HIS RECOMMENDATION TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT JUDGE JOYCE TRIED THIS CASE 19 YEARS AGO AND IS NOW 77 YEARS OF AGE. DIM ADVISED THAT HE IS AWAITING THE DECISION OF THE DEPARTMENT, AND STATED THAT IN THE EVENT DEPARTMENTAL AUTHORITY IS GIVEN TO PROCEED WITH THE HEARING, A REQUEST MAY BE MADE IMMEDIATELY OF JUDGE JOYCE TO HAVE VOLNEY DAVIS BROUGHT FROM USP, <sup>penitentiary</sup> LEAVENWORTH TO ST. PAUL ABOUT 2/15/54, FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING WHETHER DAVIS DESIRES TO HAVE AN ATTORNEY APPOINTED FOR HIM BY THE COURT AND ALSO FOR THE PURPOSE TO

SF:AMG  
7-30

c/c - Mr. Rosen

RECORDED-84

7-1576-1531

END PAGE ONE 25

FEB 8 1954

10

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
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Transmit the following Teletype message to:

PAGE TWO

SET THE DATES FOR THE HEARING WHICH MR. DIM BELIEVES WOULD BE SOMETIME IN MARCH, 1954. MR. DIM STATED THAT IN THE EVENT A HEARING IS AUTHORIZED, HE DESIRES THAT THE FOLLOWING ITEMS BE COVERED IN PREPARATION FOR THE SAME: 1. ALL PERSONS WHO ARE AVAILABLE AND WHO WERE IN THE COURT ROOM ON JUNE 3, 1935, AT THE TIME OF VOLNEY DAVIS' GUILTY PLEA AND ON JUNE 7, 1935, AT THE TIME OF HIS SENTENCE, SHOULD BE INTERVIEWED AND STATEMENTS TAKEN FROM THEM CONCERNING THEIR RECOLLECTION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT HE WAS ADVISED OF HIS RIGHT TO COUNSEL BY JUDGE JOYCE AND WHAT VOLNEY DAVIS SAID CONCERNING HIS DESIRE TO BE ASSISTED BY COUNSEL. 2. THE ARRESTING OFFICERS WHO ARRESTED VOLNEY DAVIS ON OR ABOUT JUNE 1, 1935, IN CHICAGO, ILL, SHOULD BE INTERVIEWED CONCERNING HIS CLAIM THAT HE WAS THERE HELD IN CHAINS AND NOT ALLOWED TO SEE ANYONE. 3. PERSONS SHOULD BE INTERVIEWED CONCERNING THE TIME THAT VOLNEY DAVIS WAS ARRESTED, WHETHER OR NOT HE MADE ANY REQUEST TO MAKE A TELEPHONE CALL OR TO SEE A LAWYER, AND THE FACTS SURROUNDING SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES. 4. PERSONS SUCH AS FBI AGENTS, US ATTORNEYS OR ASSISTANT USA's, AT THAT TIME, SUCH AS MR. GEORGE A. HEISEY, NOW REFEREE IN BANKRUPTCY, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, SHOULD BE INTERVIEWED

END PAGE TWO

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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Transmit the following Teletype message to:

PAGE THREE

CONCERNING ANY PROMISES THAT VOLNEY DAVIS ALLEGES WERE MADE IF HE WOULD PLEAD GUILTY TO CONSPIRACY CHARGE THAT WOULD RESULT IN HIS BEING SENTENCED TO LESS THAN LIFE IMPRISONMENT, AND FOR A TERM OF YEARS. 5. FBI AGENTS SHOULD BE INTERVIEWED CONCERNING WHETHER OR NOT VOLNEY DAVIS ASKED THEM FOR PERMISSION TO TALK TO A LAWYER AND THEY IN TURN TOLD HIM, "WE ARE ALL LAWYERS AND WE WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU. " A REVIEW OF THE MINNEAPOLIS FILE REFLECTS THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL AGENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE APPREHENSION, QUESTIONING AND REMOVAL AND TRANSPORTATION OF VOLNEY DAVIS: APPREHENSION: SAC MELVIN H. PURVIS, SA'S R. C. SURAN, M. J. CASSIDY, H. A. MARTIN, M. CHAFFETZ; QUESTIONING AND GAVE SIGNED STATEMENT TO: SA's R. C. SURAN AND M. CHAFFETZ; GAVE WAIVER OF REMOVAL TO: SAC MELVIN H. PURVIS AND SA R. C. SURAN; TRANSPORTED (BY CHARTERED PLANE) FROM CHICAGO TO ST. PAUL: SA'S R. C. SURAN, M. C. CASSIDY, E. E. KUHNEL, E. H. WILLIAMS, H. W. STEWART, F. M. HEADLEY; MET AT MINNEAPOLIS AIRPORT AND GUARDED BY: SAC HAROLD E. ANDERSON AND SA'S SAMUEL W. HARDY (PRESENTLY ASSIGNED MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE), JOHN E. BRENNAN, AND JAMES W. KLEES (PRESENTLY RESIDING ST. PAUL, AND NO LONGER EMPLOYED BY BUREAU). THE BUREAU IS REQUESTED TO FURNISH THE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

-----

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

PAGE FOUR

MINNEAPOLIS DIVISION AVAILABLE ADDRESSES OF THE ABOVE LISTED SPECIAL AGENTS. HOWEVER, LEADS TO LOCATE AND REINTERVIEW SPECIAL AGENTS AND COURT OFFICIALS WHO TOOK PART IN INSTANT CASE ARE BEING HELD IN ABEYANCE PENDING RECEIPT OF AUTHORIZATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT BY THE USA, ST. PAUL, TO PROCEED WITH THE HEARING. KANSAS CITY AT USP, <sup>Leavenworth</sup> LEAVENWORTH, WILL DETERMINE WHETHER ANY DETAINERS HAVE BEEN FILED AGAINST VOLNEY DAVIS, AND WHETHER DAVIS HAS TO SERVE ANY SENTENCES IN ADDITION TO THE PRESENT LIFE SENTENCE ON THE CHARGE OF CONSPIRACY-KIDNAPPING, AND ADVISE THE MINNEAPOLIS DIVISION FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE USA AT ST. PAUL. THE BUREAU WILL BE KEPT INFORMED IN THIS MATTER.

HOWARD

*cc Mr Ladd  
Mr Rosen*

*PH*

RECORDED-45

FEBRUARY 9, 1954

AIRTEL

SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (7-30) AIR MAIL

BREKID. REURAIRTEL FEBRUARY 5, LAST. THE FOLLOWING ARE THE LATEST

AVAILABLE ADDRESSES OF THE LISTED SPECIAL AGENTS AND FORMER SPECIAL

AGENTS IN YOUR AIRTEL: HAROLD E. ANDERSON, ASSOCIATION OF CASUALTY AND

SURETY EXECUTIVES, 60 JOHN STREET, NEW YORK, NEW YORK; JOHN E. BRENNAN

4410 DRESDEN, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI; M. J. CASSIDY, SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE,

FBI; MAXWELL CHAFFETZ, GREENE MANOR, GERMANTOWN, PHILADELPHIA 44,

PENNSYLVANIA; FRANK M. HEADLEY, KELLY-SMITH COMPANY, GRAYBAR BUILDING,

420 LEXINGTON AVENUE, NEW YORK, NEW YORK; JAMES M. KLEES, U. S.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA; E. E. KURNEL,

SAN ANTONIO OFFICE, FBI; HAROLD A. MARTIN, 1790 PENIGROVE AVENUE,

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA; MELVIN H. PURVIS, 1356 CHEROKEE ROAD, FLORENCE,

SOUTH CAROLINA; HARRY W. STEWARD, WIDEMAN, WARDLAW AND CALDWELL,

1401-12 HARVEY BUILDING, WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA; R. C. SURAN, SAN

DIEGO OFFICE, FBI; EARL H. WILLIAMS, 720 FOURTH STREET, WEST DES MOINES,

IOWA. BEFORE ANY FORMER SPECIAL AGENTS ARE SUBPOENAED, CLEARANCE SHOULD

BE OBTAINED FROM THE BUREAU. YOU SHOULD IMMEDIATELY SUBMIT PENDING

REPORT INCORPORATING ALL INFORMATION DEVELOPED TO DATE BY RETURN MAIL.

BUFILE: 7-576

Tele. \_\_\_\_\_ JTS:fc  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Geary \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_

COMM-FBI  
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FEB 18 1954

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FD-36

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Trotter  
Mr. Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy

AIRTEL - AIR MAIL

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

FBI, KANSAS CITY 2/10/54 9:45 AM  
DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576)

BREKID. RE MINNEAPOLIS AIRTEL TO BUREAU 2/4/54. C. F. ZARTER,  
RECORD CLERK, USP, LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS ADVISED THAT A DETAINER  
WAS FILED AT THAT PRISON AGAINST VOLNEY DAVIS ON 6/27/53 BY  
THE STATE PENITENTIARY, McALESTER, OKLAHOMA SHOWING THAT DAVIS  
IS WANTED FOR A LIFE SENTENCE FOR MURDER. ZARTER SAID THIS  
DETAINER IS STILL IN FORCE. RUC.

ELLSWORTH

END

2 cc: Minneapolis (7-30)

WMH:bcl

7-37

RECORDED - 28

17-576-15320  
FEB 11 1954

Mr. Rosen

55 FEB 16 1954

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

Per \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ L BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Trotter  
Mr. Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy

Transmit the following <sup>AIRTEL</sup> ~~Teletype~~ message to:

FBI, MINNEAPOLIS 2/5/54  
DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576)

AIR MAIL

REKID. RE BUAIRTEL DATED 2/2/ LAST AND ST. LOUIS AIRTEL TO DIRECTOR  
DATED 1/27 LAST. FILES OF USA, ST. PAUL, MINN., WERE REVIEWED FOR  
BASIS FOR VOLNEY DAVIS' CLAIM THAT HE HAD ENTERED A PLEA OF GUILTY  
IN THIS MATTER WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE THAT HE WAS ENTITLED TO COUNSEL, BUT  
THERE WAS NO COURT REPORTER PRESENT IN COURT ON 6/3/35 WHEN DAVIS WAS  
ARRAIGNED IN ST. PAUL. THE TERM MINUTES OF THE COURT REFLECT THAT UPON  
BEING QUESTIONED BY THE COURT (JUDGE MATTHEW M. JOYCE), THE DEFENDANT  
STATED THAT HE DID NOT DESIRE THE ADVICE OF COUNSEL AND ENTERED A PLEA  
OF GUILTY TO THE CHARGE IN THE INDICTMENT AND THE COURT DEFERRED  
SENTENCE UNTIL 6/7/35. FILES OF THE USA'S OFFICE, ST. PAUL, MINN.,  
CONTAIN COPIES OF AFFIDAVITS GIVEN IN 1940 IN OPPOSITION TO PETITION  
FOR A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS OF VOLNEY DAVIS, WHICH AFFIDAVITS REFLECT  
THAT VOLNEY DAVIS WAS QUESTIONED PRIOR TO ARRAIGNMENT AS TO HIS DESIRES  
FOR AN ATTORNEY AND THAT DAVIS STATED THAT HE DID NOT WANT AN ATTORNEY.  
THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS GAVE THE ABOVE AFFIDAVITS IN 1940: US DISTRICT  
JUDGE M. M. JOYCE, (FORMER) USA GEORGE F. SULLIVAN (DECEASED), (FORMER)  
DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT JOSEPH T. LYNCH, (FORMER) BAILIFF EDWARD R. PICH,

7-30  
SF:JPW  
CC: ST. LOUIS (7-43)(INFO)  
5 5 FEB 16 1954  
Approved:

17-576-1532  
RECORDED - 28 FEB 8 1954  
Sent M Per

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

AIRTEL

Transmit the following ~~7/11/77~~ message to:

PAGE TWO

DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT WILLIAM H. ECKLEY, SA SAMUEL W. HARDY, (FORMER)  
SAC HAROLD E. ANDERSON, (FORMER) SA JOHN E. BRENNAN, NEWSPAPERMAN  
ROBERT THOMPSON. AUSA ALEX DIM, ST. PAUL, MINN., ADVISED THAT ORIGINALS  
OF FOREGOING AFFIDAVITS ARE IN FILES OF CLERK OF US DISTRICT COURT,  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF., AND THAT SAME WILL BE SUBPOENAED IN THE EVENT  
THE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZED HEARING FOR DAVIS AT ST. PAUL. BUREAU WILL  
BE KEPT ADVISED OF DEVELOPMENT IN THIS MATTER.

HOWARD

Approved:

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FD-36

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Trotter  
Mr. Whitely  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy

AIRTEL

Transmit the following ~~teletype~~ message to: DIRECTOR

FBI, MINNEAPOLIS

2/2/54

SF:SS

DIRECTOR

REKID. RE ST. LOUIS AIRTEL TO DIRECTOR 1/27/54. BY *LEWIS*  
LETTER DATED 1/28/54 USA OFFICE, ST. PAUL, ADVISED THAT  
THE U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE 8TH CIRCUIT ON 1/25/54  
ORDERED THAT A HEARING BE HELD ON THE PETITION OF VOLNEY  
DAVIS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE 28, USC, SECTION 2255.

MR. ALEX DIM, AUSA, ST. PAUL, HAS REQUESTED THAT PERSONS  
SUCH AS USA OR AUSA'S, COURT OFFICIALS AND BUREAU AGENTS  
WHO WERE IN THE COURT ROOM AT THE ARRAIGNMENT AND SENTENCING  
OF VOLNEY DAVIS IN 1935 BE LOCATED AND REINTERVIEWED IN  
ORDER THAT THEY MAY BE SUBPOENAED FOR THE HEARING. AUSA  
DIM BELIEVES THAT HEARING ON THE PETITION OF VOLNEY DAVIS  
WILL BE HELD AT ST. PAUL DURING LATTER PART OF FEB. OR  
FIRST PART OF MARCH, 1954. INVESTIGATION IS BEING CONDUCTED  
BY THE MINNEAPOLIS DIVISION AND A REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED.

HOWARD

7-30

RECORDED - 28 17-576-15322  
FEB 4 1954  
EX-103  
FEB 16 1954

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 15 1954

TELETYPE

LK

FBI, MINNEAPOLIS

2-11-54

DIRECTOR, FBI

URGENT

BREKID. REBUAIRTEL FEBRUARY NINE LAST. REPORT BEING  
FORWARDED BUREAU AIRMAIL FEBRUARY TWELVE. BUREAU REQUESTED  
TO FURNISH FROM AVAILABLE INFO ADDRESS OF A. H. JOHNSON  
FORMERLY ASSIGNED TO CHICAGO OFFICE NINETEEN THIRTYFIVE.

T

HOWARD

RECORDED 90

END AND ACK PLS

4-37 PM OK FBI WA JG

THS AND DISC

FEB 17 1954

236

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Trotter  
Mr. Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy  
BD

FEB 15 1954

Mr. Rosen

cc: Mr. Gallagher

EX-103  
Type to  
Minneapolis  
1/12/54  
cont

URGENT

FEBRUARY 12, 1954

RECORDED - 90  
EX-121

7-576-1531

SAC, MINNEAPOLIS

BREKID. REURTEL FEBRUARY ELEVEN, LAST. BUREAU RECORDS  
INDICATE ADDRESS OF A. H. JOHNSON AS CARE INVESTIGATORS,  
INCORPORATED, SUITE FOUR NAUGHT FIVE, ONE TWO NAUGHT NINE  
SOUTH LA SALLE STREET, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

HOOVER

WMA:DEJ

FEB 12 5 57 PM '54  
RECEIVED READING ROOM  
FBI

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 12 1954

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COPIES DESTROYED

MAR 26 1965

55 FEB 18 1954

236

FEB 13 12 33 PM '54

RECEIVED - FBI  
657 P-nh

Prosser  
Ward